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07th Expansion presents "Welcome to Rokkenjima, WHEN THEY CRY 4"

原作・監修 竜騎士07

作画 水野英多

3

Episode 7 Requiem of the golden witch

Chapter 15:
Two Testimonies

I GOT IT
I JUST NEED TO TELL THEM THAT BEATRICE INDEED DID NOT SHOW UP
MIGHT AS WELL JUST SAY 'AH, THAT SCARED ME'...
HEY, HEY,
I'LL PICK IT UP. I'M GONNA PICK IT UP
IT MUST BE SOMEONE'S PRANK TO TRY AND SCARE ME, ANYWAY
IT'LL BE MY VICTORY
THEN, IN A SENSE
... HELLO?

I DON'T GET
EH
WHAT THIS MEANS
MA... MARIA...!?
WHY IS MARIA CALLING HERE...!?
I HEARD IT WRONG ...
RIGHT ?
HE-
HELLO ...?
UUU!
HI,
BEATRICE...!

THANKS FOR LETTING ME HEAR A FUN SONG THE OTHER DAY
THEREFORE, MARIA WILL SING TO BEATRICE, TOO
I'LL SING A FUN SONG I LEARNED!
UU!
THE WAY OF SPEAKING
THE VOICE
EVERYTHING
THE INTONATION
THERE'S NO DOUBT, IT'S MARIA...!

HEL...
I DON'T GET WHAT THIS MEANS
MARIA ?
HELLO ?
WAIT A MINUTE. STOP SINGING...!
HELLO !?
I DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON...!
WHAT IS THIS!?

IT'S DARK, I CAN'T SEE A
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
ZAAAAAH
ZAAAH
EH...
A BLACKOUT?
I DON'T GET WHAT THIS MEANS.
I DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON!
Hu

WHAT
WHAT IS THIS SOUND ...?
...KH
...HI
HYA...

ZAAAAA
ZAAAAAAH...
FUUOOOOGAAAA
WHA...

WHAT WAS...
...THAT JUST NOW
...I CAN'T COMPREHEND WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS ROOM JUST NOW...
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS COMPLETELY DARK...
WHAT'S THIS RUSTLE?
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT PROPERLY
I... DON'T UNDER-STAND VERY WELL
THE SOUND WAS AS IF SOMEONE CAME OUT CRAWLING FROM THE BED...
IT WASN'T SOMETHING AMBIGUOUS LIKE 'HAVING A FEELING'
IT WASN'T SOMETHING VAGUE LIKE 'THERE WERE SIGNS'

SOMEONE CRAWLED OUT FROM HERE
AND LEFT THE ROOM LAUGHING WITH A CREEPY VOICE... SOMETHING THAT FELT LIKE THAT
THERE'S NOTHING DIFFERENT ON THE BED.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, NOBODY WAS SLEEPING THERE. THE SHEETS ARE IN ORDER, TOO. . AND YET
FELT LIKE THAT ...?
...WHY CAN'T I UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED JUST A FEW SECONDS AGO!?
NOT ONLY DID IT HAPPEN IN THE SAME ROOM, BUT IT WAS RIGHT BESIDE ME, AND YET
. . . .

DID IT FALL ON THE FLOOR !?
NO MATTER WHERE I LOOK... IT'S
NO.. IT'S NOT HERE
... NO WAY ...
THEN, WHAT ...?
THE DOLL... DISAPPEARED...
...WHY
IS IT GONE...?

HOWEVER
...WHAT IS THIS?
IF NOTHING CHANGED INSIDE THIS QUIET ROOM FROM THE START,
I WONDER IF I CAN JUST PRETEND THE INCIDENT FROM A MINUTE AGO
NEVER HAPPENED

...THAT'S RIGHT...
ハハハハ!
...NOTHING ELSE CHANGED..
ONLY THE DOLL DISAPPEARED
NOTHING HAPPENED AFTER THAT
WILL YOU TELL THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED ?
AND LEFT THE ROOM CACKLING...
Z
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT DOLL HAD A BURST OF LAUGHTER AND LEFT THIS ROOM..?
NO THAT JUST NOW WAS LIKE A CHILD PLAYING AROUND WEARING A SHEET AS IF IT WAS A MANTLE
IT WAS A NOISY SOUND A SIGN ..LIKE THAT
THEN,
WHAT ...?

...NO...
...WAY...
...I SEE,
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
AND THEN, IN THE END, THE DOLL WAS NOT FOUND?
...I SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, EVEN UNDER THE BED
I EVEN WENT INSIDE PLACES LOOKING
.. BUT I COULDN'T FIND IT
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED IN THAT ROOM?

PRANK?
I DON'T THINK THAT WAS THE CASE
BEATRICE SAMA'S CURSE.
MAYBE IT WAS A PRANK BY ONE OF THE SERVANTS
AND THEN, AT AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT
THEY CUT THE POWER AT THE SWITCHBOARD OR SOMETHING
AND EXACTLY AT 2AM, THEY CALLED AND PUSHED THE PLAY BUTTON
THEY RECORDED MARIA'S VOICE IN A CASSETE TAPE BEFOREHAND,
...THINKING LIKE THIS, IT MAKES SENSE
TOOK THE DOLL OUT OF THE ROOM
WITH A CREEPY LAUGHTER
AFTER THAT, SOMEONE WHO WAS HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THE NOBLE ROOM SINCE BEFORE,

IF I THINK OF THIS AS A PRANK TO SCARE ME,
IT'S WAY OVER THE TOP
..AFTER ALL,
YOU DON'T SEEM SATISFIED WITH THAT EXPLANATION
THAT'S TRUE
THERE'S NO PHONE LINE THERE,
SO YOU'D NEED DIFFERENT PERSONS
TO PLAY BACK MARIA'S TAPE AND TO TRIP THE BREAKER
TO TURN OFF THE POWER TO THE NOBLE ROOM,
YOU HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE BASEMENT
..THERE'S A SWITCHBOARD BOOTH IN THE BOILER ROOM, IN THE BASEMENT
THEY MADE MARIA SING A SONG,
JUST TO RECORD IT
AND PLAYED THAT RECORDING TO LET ME HEAR IT
THEN SOMEONE CALLED THE NOBLE ROOM
THEN, AT A SUITABLE TIME, SOMEONE TRIPPED THE BREAKER

SOMEONE ELSE TO HIDE IN THE NOBLE ROOM,
AND LEAVE CACKLING
FURTHER-MORE,
HIDDEN IN THE NOBLE ROOM, LET'S SAY UNDER THE BED ?
JUST FOR HOW MANY HOURS. . DID THIS PERSON HAVE TO WAIT
...THIS CREEPS ME OUT WAY MORE...
IF I THINK OF IT AS A HUMAN PRANK,
IT'D MEAN THAT MANY PEOPLE WERE SUBTLY CONSPIRING TOGETHER,
AND WAITING IN THE DARK FOR MANY HOURS JUST TO SCARE ME...
...THERE'S NO WAY A WITCH'S CURSE EXISTS
...BUT

...I AGREE
A CURSE WOULD BE MUCH BETTER
LATER ON, DID YOU ASK THE SERVANTS ABOUT THAT?
EVEN IF I ASKED, OF COURSE THEY'D JUST PLAY DUMB
...BESIDES,
IT WAS AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE, YOU KNOW.. ?
THAT DAY,
GENJI-SAN, KUMASAWA -SAN,
GOHDA SAN AND SHANNON,
THESE FOUR, WERE STAYING THE NIGHT
THREE AMONG THEM
WERE PARTICIPATING IN THAT CREEPY PRANK?
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...!
THAT'S WHY...
I COULD NOT ASK
... CERTAINLY

IF WE TRY TO IMAGINE
THAT MANY PEOPLE WERE SUBTLY COOPERATING JUST TO SCARE JESSICA...
... HOW-EVER
IT WAS A STRANGE EXPERI-ENCE,
IT'S NOT SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A HUMAN BEING
IT'S NO WONDER
SHE'S MORE FRIGHTENED OF THAT THAN OF BEATRICE'S CURSE...
EVEN NOW,
DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THE SERVANTS SET YOU UP?
... WELL,
PROBABLY
I WAS SO SCARED I MISUNDERSTOOD THINGS
CERTAINLY, THE DOLL FELL SOMEWHERE
AND I ONLY, BY SOME CHANCE, COULDN'T FIND IT

ASIDE FROM THE DOLL DIS-APPEARING
...I ASKED MARIA SOME TIME LATER
THERE'S NO CHANGE OR EVIDENCE
BUT SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY SONG OR PHONE CALL
ARE YOU SAYING
THAT EVERYTHING WAS YOUR IMAGINATION ?
...JUST BECAUSE I ASSERT
THAT IT DEFINITELY HAPPENED ...
DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING
... ANYWAY,
ABOUT THE INCIDENT THAT NIGHT,
...IT'S IRONIC

EVEN IF YOU HAD MET BEATRICE,
YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PROVE IT ANYWAY
...I WAS SHOCKED FOR A WHILE, BUT
AFTER SOME TIME, I STARTED TO FEEL
THAT MAYBE I WAS BEING A COWARD AND GOT SCARED WITH A POWER OUTAGE THAT LASTED ONLY A MOMENT DUE TO A THUNDERBOLT, OR SOMETHING,
AND MISTOOK THE SOUND OF THE GARDEN TREES BRANCHES BREAKING OFF AND RUSTLING AS THEY FELL
WHAT ABOUT THE LAUGH-TER?
MAYBE IT WAS THE CRY OF A WEIRD BIRD, OR SOME-THING
...AT ANY RATE,
MAYBE I HEARD SOMETHING WRONG AND IT ENDED UP SOUNDING LIKE THAT
...I PERSISTENTLY TOLD MYSELF
TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT

...I ONLY PRETEND TO BE STRONG,
BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT I WAS UNBELIEVABLY COWARD
... THAT'S WHY
I ENDED UP MISUNDER-STANDING WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED
BY TRYING TO THINK
LIKE THAT
... WHEN PEOPLE
WANT TO FORGET SOMETHING, THEY CAN DO IT REALLY WE...
EVERYTHING IS SHUT IN THE DARKNESS
...HUH?
SINCE THEN,
WHENEVER I HEAR THE WORD BEATRICE, I HAVE AN UNPLEASANT FEELING WELLING UP INSIDE ME
BUT, I GIVE MY BEST TO NO LET IT SHOW ON MY FACE
--- THE END

THIS IS
ALL I CAN TELL YOU
IT'S A PITIABLE STORY,
SO DON'T TELL ANYONE
...I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW HOW FRIGHTENED I WAS
I GOT IT
...
LASTLY,
I'D LIKE TO ASK ONLY ONE QUESTION
ABOUT THE NOBLE ROOM?
NO
IT'S ABOUT THE DINING HALL
DINING HALL?

ON THE DAY OF THE FAMILY MEETING, BEFORE YOUR GHOST STORY,
WAS EVERYBODY OF THE FAMILY PRESENT IN THE DINING HALL?
YEAH
THAT DAY, BATTLER HAD NOT COME BACK YET,
BUT, ASIDE FROM HIM, EVERYBODY WAS THERE
OF COURSE, EXCLUDING GRAND-FATHER, TOO
ANGE HAD A STOMACH ACHE, SO HER SEAT WAS VACANT.
THAT WAS THE SEAT NEXT TO YOU, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT
WAS THAT SEAT
TO YOUR RIGHT?
YEAH,
THE SEAT TO MY RIGHT
WHAT ABOUT THAT . . ?
...?
...HM?
WHAT .?
THAT'S STRANGE ...

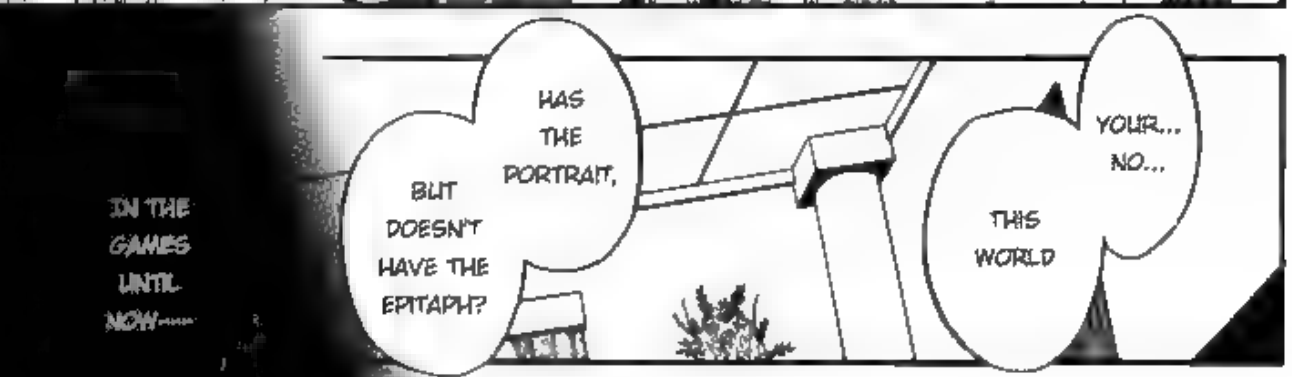
...DON'T THINK TOO HARD
IT'LL GIVE YOU A HEADACHE
THAT'S ENOUGH
WHY TO MY RIGHT ..
WHAT'S WRONG?
JESSICA
WHAT DO YOU THINK, WILL?
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING ASKING GEORGE-NII-SAN AND JESSICA?
HAHA, YOU ARE SO WEIRD, JESSICA
... NO, WELL ..
... RIGHT
... LEFT ..
..??

A STORY WHERE BEATRICE'S GHOST APPEARS IN THE NOBLE ROOM AT 2AM
GHOST STORIES ?
WHAT KIND OF STORIES WERE THEY?
A BIT
BEATRICE'S GHOST STORIES WERE VERY INTERESTING
FIRST TIME I HEAR ABOUT IT
THE STORY WAS QUITE FRIGHTENING
?
LION, DO YOU KNOW THE EPITAPH?
.....
WHAT IS IT?
AN EXEMPLARY ANSWER
I DON'T KNOW WHO TOLD THAT STORY,
BUT TO TURN THE SAVIOUR OF THE HEAD INTO A GHOST STORY
.....
IS VERY RUDE

EPITAPH ?
YOU SAY ...?
A CERTAIN EPITAPH NEAR BEATRICE'S PORTRAIT
...SORRY
I HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT THAT

THE SWEETFISH RIVER
RUNNING THROUGH MY BELOVED HOMETOWN

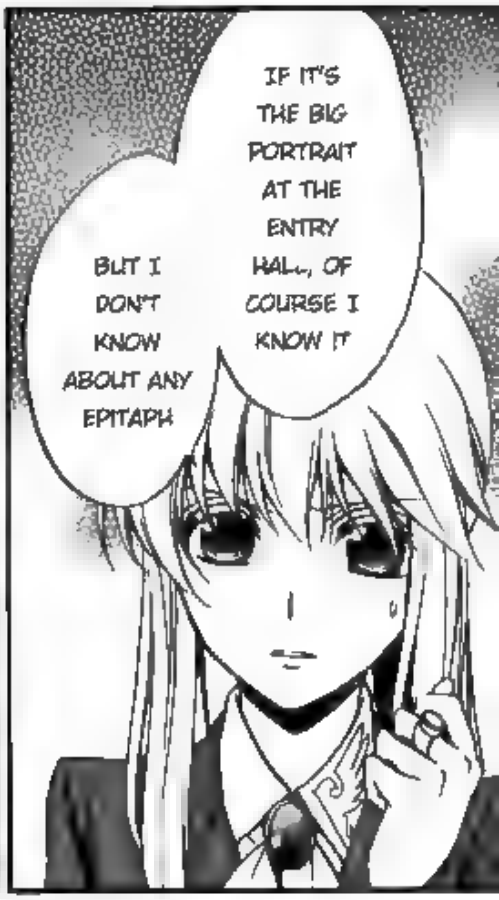
...WHAT IS THAT?


IN THE GAMES UNTIL NOW.....
BUT DOESN'T HAVE THE EPITAPH?
HAS THE PORTRAIT,
YOUR... NO... THIS WORLD

EXISTED THE EPITAPH
WITHOUT FAIL, TOGETHER WITH THE PORTRAIT,

... THAT'S AN INTERESTING DIFFERENCE

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
.....


IF IT'S THE BIG PORTRAIT AT THE ENTRY HALL, OF COURSE I KNOW IT
BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY EPITAPH

..LION, YOU HAVE ALWAYS LIVED ON ROKKENJIMA, RIGHT?
CERTAINLY
WHAT ABOUT THAT?

IN YOUR CHILD-HOOD,
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THREATENED NOT TO GET NEAR THE FOREST
YEAH
SINCE A LONG TIME AGO, BEING TOLD THAT IT'S DANGEROUS TO GET LOST THERE, SO YOU SHOULD NEVER GET NEAR IT
AND THAT A WITCH WOULD APPEAR IN THE FOREST?
A WITCH ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?
THE GOLDEN WITCH,
AND THE RULER OF THE NIGHT OF ROKKENJIMA
BEATRICE
...BEATRICE IS GRANDFATHER'S SAVIOUR
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S KIND OF RUDE
TO TREAT HER AS A WITCH OR AS A GHOST STORY?
...YOU DON'T KNOW
THE WITCH BEATRICE
..
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

I KNOW THE STORY OF THE BEATRICE THAT CAME HERE IN A SUBMARINE
AND HER DAUGHTER WHO WAS RAISED IN THE SECRET MANSION
I LEARNED ABOUT IT TOGETHER WITH YOU, DIDN'T I?
WHEN DID SHE BECOME A WITCH?
SO THAT'S IT, HUH
.....
...YOU WERE THREAT-ENED
THAT IF YOU WENT INTO THE FOREST, SOMETHING WOULD APPEAR?
THEY TOLD ME TO NOT GET NEAR BECAUSE WOLVES LIVE IN THE FOREST
...NOT A WITCH, BUT WOLVES
HUH
I SEE, INTERESTING
I DON'T FIND IT INTERESTING
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A WITCH?
TALKING TO MYSELF HERE
LASTLY, ONE MORE THING

IN THE DINING HALL OF THE FAMILY MEETING,
WHO SITS TO YOUR RIGHT?
ACROSS ME IS MY LITTLE SISTER JESSICA
THE NEXT IN RANK IS EVA OBA-SAN'S SON
SO IT IS GEORGE NII-SAN
NO...
...WHY DO YOU ASK?
MARIA'S STORY
AND MAMA, WHO WAS SITTING NEXT TO ME,
SCOLDED ME AND TOLD ME TO STOP TALKING ABOUT THAT
YEAH
THE SEAT TO MY RIGHT
JESSICA'S STORY
AND THEN LION'S STORY...
.....

I SEE,
IT'S ALL MIXED TOGETHER, NO DOUBT
IT'S INTERESTING
BUT
?……

...I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT, BUT
WHO KILLED
DID YOU FIGURE OUT?
BEATRICE

YEAH
KIND OF

WTDND
GROUP

Translation: TheAceFrehley

Cleaning: JJ

Typesetting: Chris

http://wtdnd.wordpress.com/

YOU WON'T TELL ME

THAT THE HEAD KILLED HER

OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT, RIGHT?

WHO KILLED BEATRICE...

WHAT BERNKASTEL IS AFTER IS NOT THE TWO BEATRICES WHO GOT INVOLVED WITH KINZO

IT IS WHO KILLED THE BEATRICE OF 1986

Chapter 16: Will's theory

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU EXPLAINED THESE TO ME?
AND WHAT IS THIS ABOUT THE WITCH BEATRICE?
THERE'S WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BEFORE
AND THIS TALK ABOUT THE EPITAPH
...THAT BEATRICE OF 1986...
I DON'T UNDESTAND WHAT THE BEATRICE OF THIS YEAR MEANS

I DON'T FEEL LIKE PUTTING ON AIRS
FINE

...WHO IS THE WITCH BEATRICE?
THEN, FIRSTLY

STRICTLY SPEAKING, SHE'S NOT A PERSON
THE GOLDEN BEATRICE
IS A CONCEPT
YOU MEAN THE GHOST STORY ITSELF?
EVEN THAT IS NOTHING MORE THAN ONE ELEMENT THAT PRODUCES THE CONCEPT
A GHOST STORY IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE TALKED ABOUT IN THE SECOND PERSON OR THIRD PERSON
AND SOME-ONE
STARTED TALKING ABOUT IT IN THE FIRST PERSON

... SOMEONE STARTED CALLING THEMSELVES BEATRICE ..?
LEGENDS OF ROKKENJIMA'S EVIL SPIRITS
THE MADE-UP STORY SO THAT THE KIDS WOULD GET NEAR THE FOREST
BEATRICE, BEATRICEEEEEE
THOSE WERE EMBELLISHED BY THE REPEATING LAMENTS OF KINZO,
AND CREATED THE LEGEND OF THE WITCH
USHIROMIYA MARIA, ADMIRING THAT FICTITIOUS WITCH, BEGGED TO MEET HER
..AND THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO ANSWERED THAT

ANSWERING THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY
I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT,
BUT I'LL JUST PRETEND I HAVE AND LET YOU KEEP GOING

SHE GREW ATTACHED TO OCCULTISM
DUE TO USHIROMIYA MARIA'S UNFORTUNATE UPBRINGING,

AND PLAYED TOGETHER WITH HER
AND PRETENDED TO BE BEATRICE
...THEN SOMEONE FELT SYMPATHY FOR HER

IN OTHER WORDS,
MAMA, MAMA COME BACK...
THAT'S NOTHING BUT
HER STRONG TENDENCY TO JUDGE OTHERS BY WHAT'S INSIDE, NOT WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE
MARIA CALLED HER BLACK WITCH AND SAW HER AS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON
WHEN SHE GOT VIOLENT,
EVEN THOUGH HER MOTHER WAS ONLY ONE PERSON,

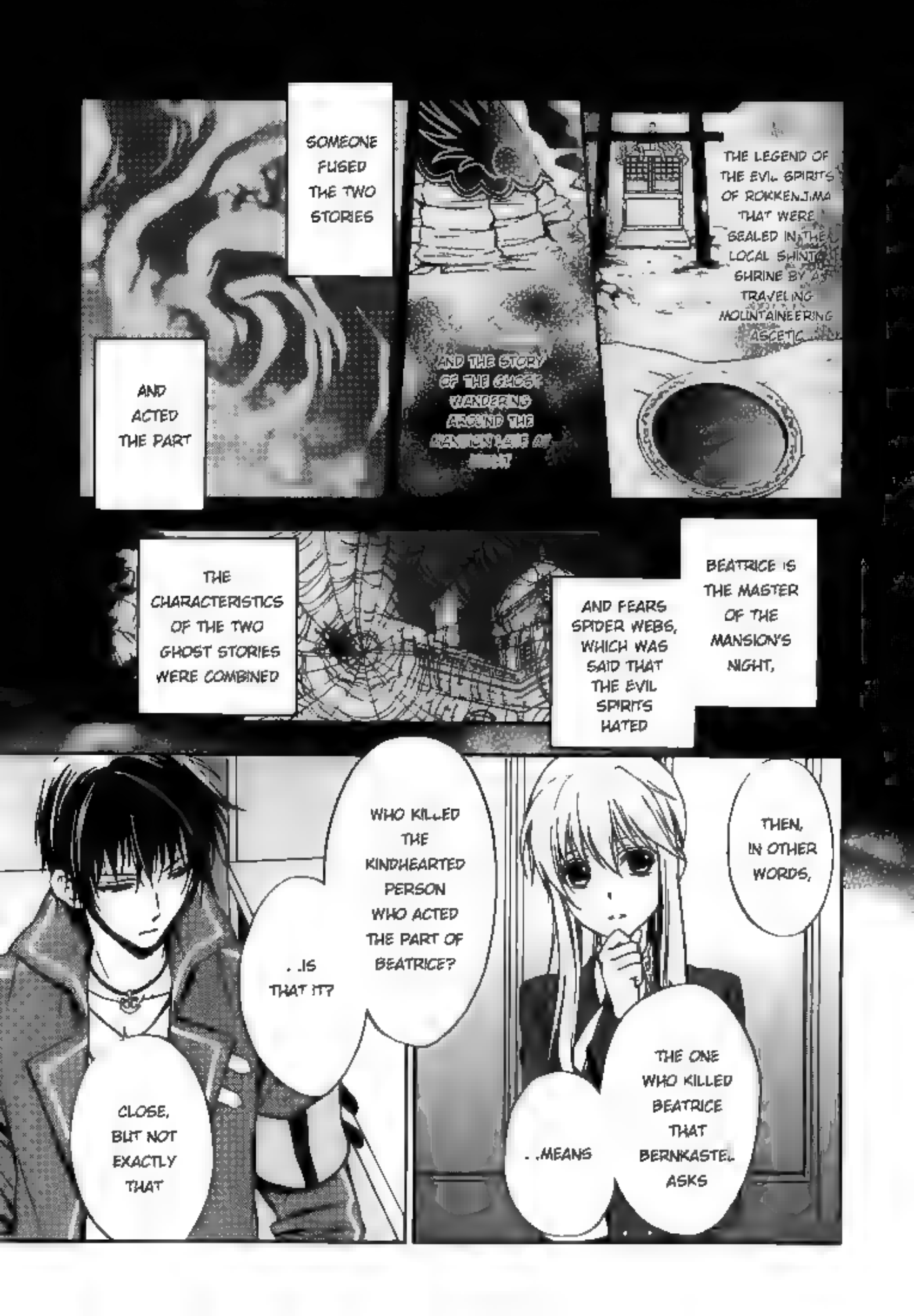
IF WHAT'S INSIDE CHANGES, THERE IS A TENDENCY TO RECOGNIZE THEM AS A DIFFERENT PERSON
EVEN IF SOMEONE LOOKS LIKE ONLY ONE PERSON,
AND DECIDED TO HAVE SOME TEA IN THE ROSE GARDEN
MARIA WAS DRIVEN OUT OF THE MANSION BECAUSE OF THE ADULT TALK GOING ON OVER THERE,
THINKING LIKE THAT,
THE EPISODE WHEN MARIA FIRST MET BEATRICE
CAN BE INTERPRETED VERY EASILY
SOMEONE JOINED MARIA TO TALK
PROBABLY AT THAT TIME,
THE OCCULT LITTLE GIRL TALKED LOOKING HAPPY
...I WISH I COULD MEET THE WITCH BEATRICE
FOR HER SAKE,
THEN THAT 'SOMEONE'

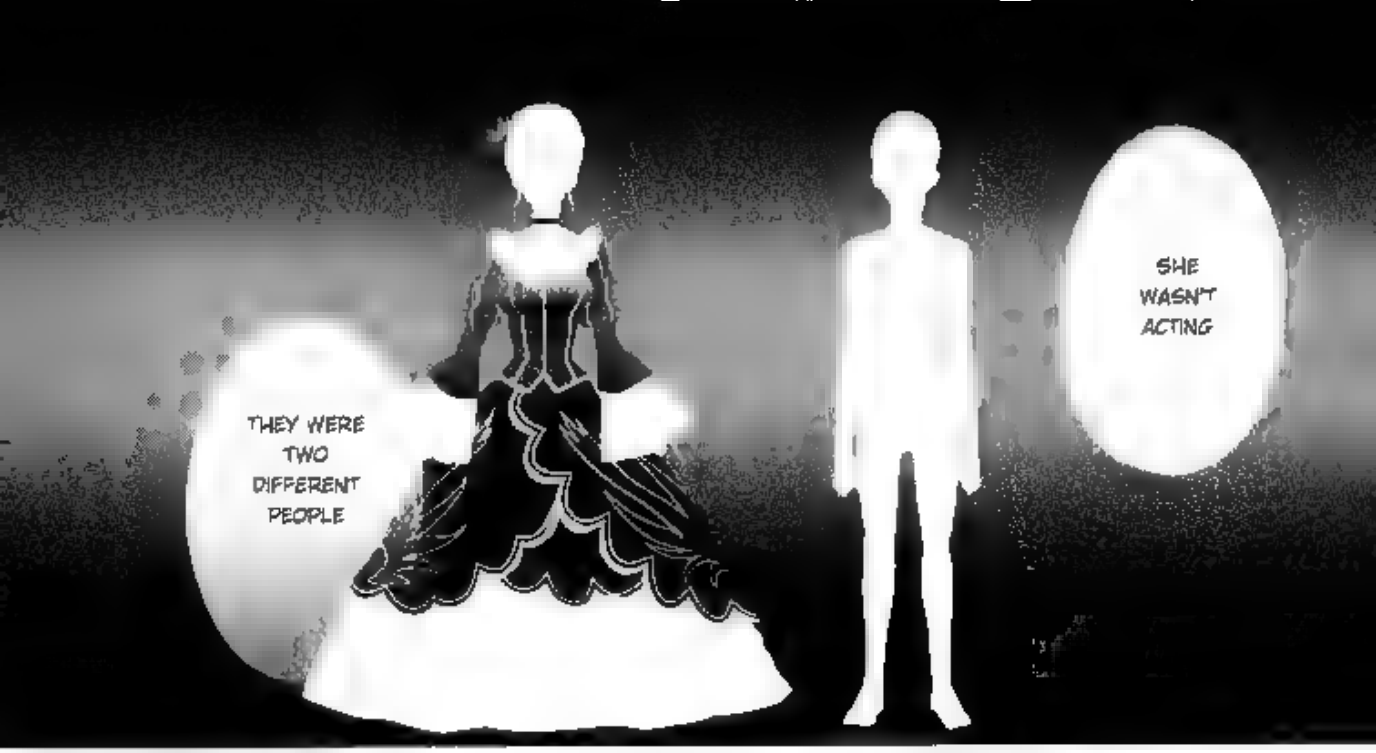
STARTED TO BEHAVE AS IF THEY HAD BEEN POSSESSED BY BEATRICE
WHO ARE YOU ?
THAT'S THE REASON FOR THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE
HOWEVER, MARIA RECOG-NIZES THAT PERSON
AS SOMEONE ELSE THE MOMENT THEY SUDDENLY CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND WAY OF SPEAKING
THE APPEAR-ANCE
WAS NOT THAT OF BEATRICE
CAN BE SEEN AS SOME KIND OF ESCAPE FROM REALITY
AS FAR AS MARIA IS CONCERNED, WITCHES AND OCCULTISM

BY BELIEVING THAT,
SHE COULD BELIEVE SHE COULD BE HAPPY
THAT'S WHY SHE WANTED TO BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF WITCHES
... SHE BELIEVED HER UNSATISFYING PRESENT CONDITION
COULD BE OVERCOME WITH WITCH POWERS
I THINK SHE IS AN UNFORTUNATE KID, BUT. .
...CERTAINLY, MARIA-CHAN WAS RAISED BY ROSA OBA-SAN ALONE
AND SHE IS ALWAYS TOO BUSY WITH WORK
DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF THE HEART
...THAT'S WHY MARIA BELIEVED IN ORDER TO 'BELIEVE'
SHE BELIEVED FROM THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART
EVEN IN THE FAKE MAGIC TRICKS BEATRICE SHOWED HER

YOU'RE SAYING THAT SOMEONE JOINED MARIA-CHAN IN PLAYING WITCHES
BECAUSE SHE WISHED TO MEET A WITCH...?
THAT'S RIGHT
THIS IS THE BIRTH OF ANE-BEATO*

*Translation note: Ane = Older Sister


THE LEGEND OF THE EVIL SPIRITS OF ROKKENJIMA THAT WERE SEALED IN THE LOCAL SHINTO SHRINE BY A TRAVELING MOUNTAINEERING ASCETIC
AND THE STORY OF THE GHOST WANDERING AROUND THE MANSION AT NIGHT
SOMEONE FUSED THE TWO STORIES
AND ACTED THE PART
BEATRICE IS THE MASTER OF THE MANSION'S NIGHT,
AND FEARS SPIDER WEBS, WHICH WAS SAID THAT THE EVIL SPIRITS HATED
THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TWO GHOST STORIES WERE COMBINED
THEN, IN OTHER WORDS,
THE ONE WHO KILLED BEATRICE THAT BERNKASTEL ASKS
. .MEANS
WHO KILLED THE KINDHEARTED PERSON WHO ACTED THE PART OF BEATRICE?
. .IS THAT IT?
CLOSE, BUT NOT EXACTLY THAT



EVEN IF THE KINDHEARTED PERSON WHO ACTED THE PART WAS KILLED,
IT DOESN'T MEAN THE ACTED CHARACTER WAS KILLED*
IN OTHER WORDS,
BEATRICE AND THE HUMAN WHO ACTED THAT PART
BECOME DIFFERENT PERSONS
... SIMILARLY TO HOW, TO MARIA,
THE BLACK WITCH AND HER MOTHER ARE DIFFERENT PERSONS

* This part is reversed in the visual novel

...IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND IF YOU EXEMPLIFY THE PHONE AS THE VESSEL
THE LOSS OF THE VESSEL ALONE
DOESN'T MEAN BEATRICE WAS KILLED

LET'S ASSUME YOU AND I ARE TALKING ON THE PHONE
AT THAT TIME,
TO ME, THE TELEPHONE
IS THE TARGET OF THE CONVERSATION, AS IF IT WAS YOU
HOWEVER, WHAT IF I BROKE THE TELEPHONE ?
IF YOU KILL THE TELEPHONE, YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME ANYMORE,
BUT THAT'S NOT THE SAME
AS HAVING KILLED ME
I SEE
BACK THEN, IN THE BEGGINING,
I TOLD HER THAT SHE COULD POSSESS MARIA'S BODY
BUT SHE SAID SHE CAN'T LEAVE THE ISLAND, SO SHE COULDN'T DO THAT
MARIA SAID THAT IT WAS OKAY FOR BEATRICE TO POSSESS HER
THAT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT, BACK THEN,
BEATRICE WAS NOT IMITATING THE LOOKS OF THE PORTRAIT

...IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
BY THINKING THAT THE ACTED WITCH CHARACTER AND THE PERSON ACTING THE PART ARE DIFFERENT PERSONS,
..YOU KILL ONLY THE ACTED WITCH CHARACTER ...
THAT IS,
THE ONE WHO KILLED BEATRICE
IS THE SAME AS THE ONE WHO ACTED THE PART OF BEATRICE
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN KIL.. HER
IS THE ACTUA.. PERSON ACTING THE PART

IT'S COMPLICATED BECAUSE, RIGHT NOW,
THIS CHAPEL IS A WORLD INSIDE THE CAT BOX
THE CAT, WHICH WE CALL THE CULPRIT,
EXISTS HERE AS TWO CATS, A LIVING ONE AND A DEAD ONE
THE COMPANION WHO PLAYED WITCHES WITH MARIA CHAN
IS THE CULPRIT BERNKASTEL IS LOOKING FOR?
CORRECT
.. HOWEVER,
I'M CLUELESS, BUT ..
IN OTHER WORDS
YOU WANT TO SAY THERE ARE TWO CRIMINALS?
...IT'S REALLY COMPLICATED

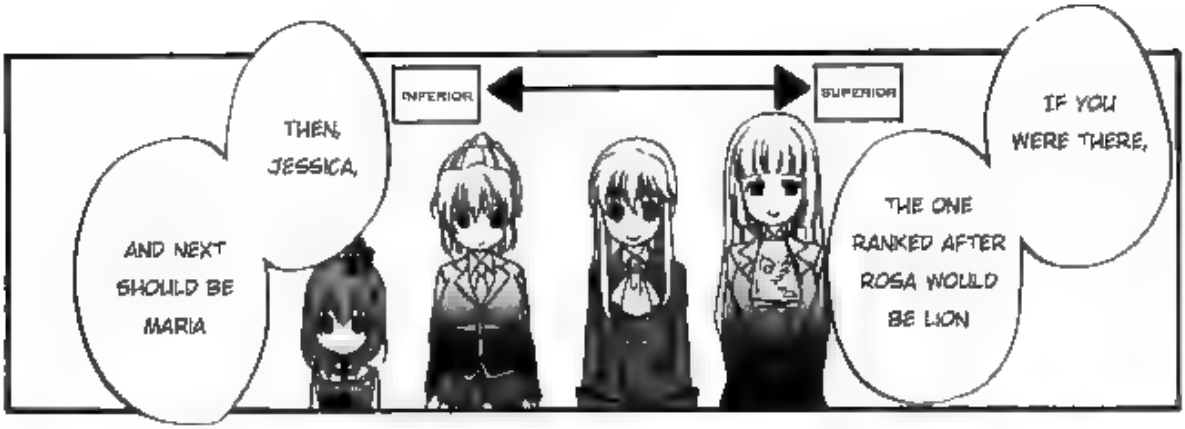
WHO IS IT?
... STARTING
WITH THE FIRST ONE.
WHO ARE THOSE TWO CULPRITS?
THE DEAD CAT

IN THE BEATRICE MURDER CASE.
AND ASK HER WITH HER CONSENT AND OK.
...AND THE PERSON WHO DOESN'T LET BEATRICE BE BORN
...HER FRIEND WHO CHOSE DEATH
AND CRYING HER.
THAT'S RIGHT
THOSE TWO PERSONS ARE HERE
THEN,
LET ME ASK YOU

I DON'T GET WHAT YOU MEAN
ONLY IN THE WORLD YOU EXIST,
THE WITCH BEATRICE DOESN'T EXIST
IT'S AN EXTREMELY SIMPLE THEORY

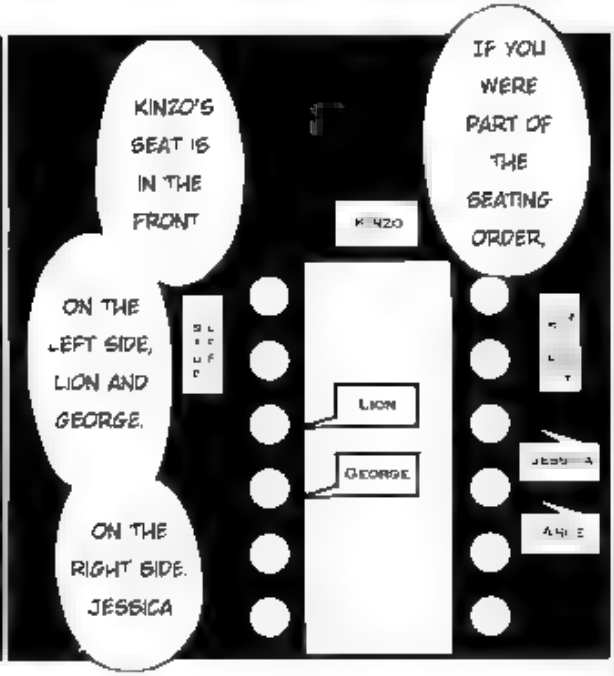
IN THEIR SEATING ORDER OF THE DINING HALL IN THE FAMILY MEETING, YOU ARE NOT INCLUDED
HOW-EVER,
TOLD ME STORIES ABOUT THE WITCH BEATRICE
MARIA AND JESSICA

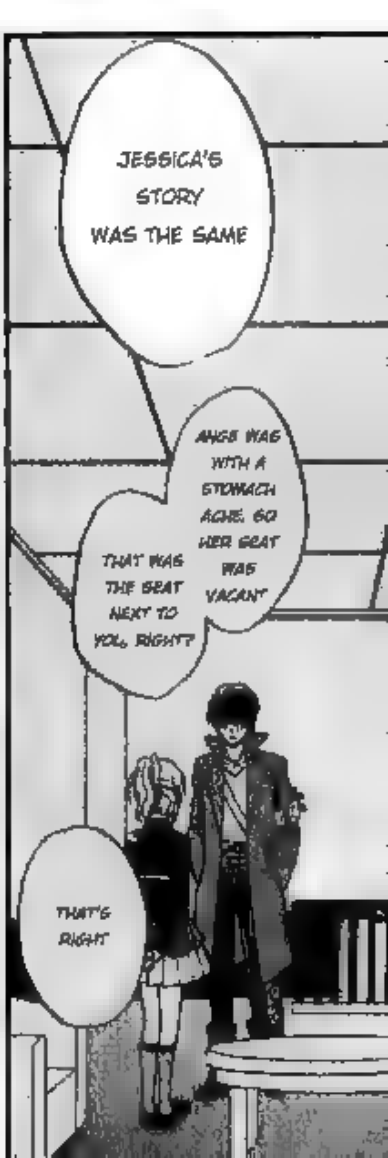
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
MARIA CAME TO ROKKENJIMA WITH ROSA
AND ROSA WAS SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO HER
INCLUDED ...?
I AM NOT


INFERIOR
SUPERIOR
THEN, JESSICA,
AND NEXT SHOULD BE MARIA
IF YOU WERE THERE,
THE ONE RANKED AFTER ROSA WOULD BE LION

IN A WORLD WHERE LION EXISTS, ROSA CAN'T SIT NEXT TO MARIA
MARIA
LION
KRAUSS
JESSICA
ROSA
THE SEATING ORDER WOULD BE LIKE THIS

EVEN WITHOUT LION, JESSICA AND ANGE SIT SIDE BY SIDE
HOWEVER, LION BEING THERE OR NOT, CHANGES THE SIDE EACH ENDS UP ON


KINZO'S SEAT IS IN THE FRONT
ON THE LEFT SIDE, LION AND GEORGE.
ON THE RIGHT SIDE, JESSICA
IF YOU WERE PART OF THE SEATING ORDER,
KINZO
LION
GEORGE


JESSICA'S STORY WAS THE SAME
ANGE WAS WITH A STOMACH ACHE, SO HER SEAT WAS VACANT
THAT WAS THE SEAT NEXT TO YOU, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT

ANGE'S SEAT IS TO JESSICA RIGHT
IN A WORLD WITHOUT LION,

ANGE'S SEAT GOES TO JESSICA LEFT
IN A WORLD WITH LION,

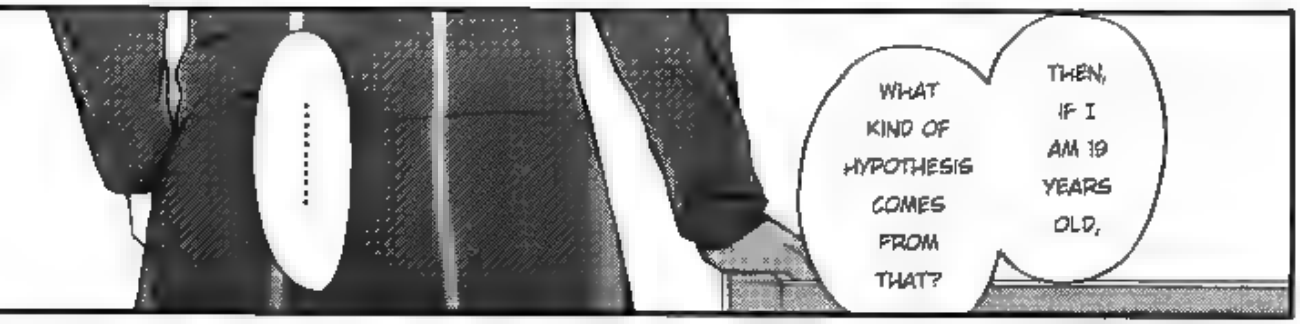
TALK ABOUT A WORLD WHERE YOU DON'T EXIST
ALL OF THEM,
THE HUMANS WHO TALK ABOUT THE WITCH BEATRICE OF 1986,
AND YOUR WORLD
TO YOU, BEATRICE
IS KINZO'S LOVER, OR HIS SAVIOUR
...THE HEAD LOVED BEATRICE DEEPLY, DIDN'T HE?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY SHE WOULD TURN INTO A HAUNTING GHOST STORY
IS THE ONE WHERE THE WITCH BEATRICE DOESN'T EXIST
AND NOT A GHOST HAUNTING THE HOUSE
EXACTLY

YOUR EX TENCE
IF YOU EX ST THE WITCH BEATRICE DOESN'T EX ST
KILLED PEATR E
THE CULPRIT WHO KILLED BEATRICE ...?
I AM

THIS ...
TURNED OUT TO BE A WEIRD STORY
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER STORY VERY WELL, LET ALONE HAVING MET HER, AND YET I'M THE CULPRIT
ON THE OTHER HAND,
...IF YOU DO NOT EXIST,
BEATRICE IS BORN
OTHER HAND?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT BEATRICE AND I ARE TWO SIDES OF A COIN?
THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO PUT IT
YOU'RE CORRECT
THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF YOUR COIN
IS BEATRICE

I HAD NO CLUE ABOUT THAT
YEAH
I HAD NO CLUE ABOUT YOUR EXISTENCE
... BUT,
LISTENING TO ALL THE STORIES,
I CAME UP WITH ONE HYPOTHESIS REGARDING YOUR EXISTENCE
THE MAIN POINT IS THAT YOU ARE 19 YEARS OLD
WHEN SHE ENTERED THE SCHOOL, YOU WERE ALREADY VICE-PRESIDENT,
AND THE NEXT YEAR YOU BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL
THAT SHOWS THAT YOU ARE ONE YEAR OLDER THAN JESSICA
... HOW DID YOU KNOW?
JESSICA SAID THAT,
.....
I DON'T REMEMBER TELLING YOU MY AGE, BUT
YOU'RE CORRECT

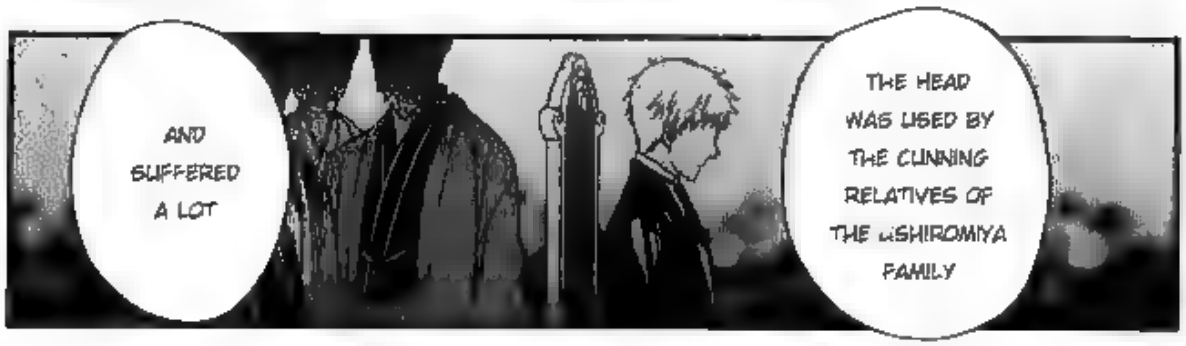
I SEE
AND JESICA IS 18 YEARS OLD


.....
WHAT KIND OF HYPOTHESIS COMES FROM THAT?
THEN, IF I AM 19 YEARS OLD,

YOU ARE NOT USHIROMIYA NATSUHI'S CHILD
THAT'S THE HYPOTHESIS

.....
HOW RUDE
...WHY ARE YOU THE NEXT HEAD, AND NOT KRAUSS?
BUT I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO TAKE BACK
THE INSULTS NOT ONLY AGAINST ME, BUT AGAINST MY MOTHER, TOO
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF GAME THIS IS,

...YOU HEARD IT FROM THE HEAD HIMSELF
THEN, WHY DIDN'T KINZO PASS THE HEADSHIP WHEN KRAUSS CAME OF AGE?
I WILL INHERIT THE HEADSHIP WHEN I COME OF AGE
IF I HAVE A CHILD,
WHEN THEY COME TO AGE, I SHALL PASS THAT TO THEM AS WELL


AND SUFFERED A LOT
THE HEAD WAS USED BY THE CUNNING RELATIVES OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY

THE SILVER RING THAT PROVES YOU ARE THE NEXT HEAD DOESN'T EXIST EITHER
THAT SILVER RING YOU WEAR ON YOUR FINGER
IS PROOF OF KINZO'S STRONG WILL TO HAVE YOU INHERIT THE HEADSHIP
IN THE WORLD WHERE YOU DON'T EXIST,
THAT'S WHY HE TOUGHT YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD INHERIT THE HEADSHIP FROM NOW ON

I CERTAINLY CAN'T DENY THAT
.....
HE TOLD ME HE'D MAKE ME INHERIT THE HEADSHIP AS SOON AS I CAME
AND TO BE READY FOR THAT DAY, HE WAS VERY STRICT IN TELLING ME TO NOT BE NEGLIGENT WITH MY STUDIES
THE HEAD SHOWED SPECIAL AFFECTION TO ME
AND EVER SINCE I WAS VERY YOUNG,
I DON'T THINK MY FATHER DOESN'T HAVE THE TALENT FOR THAT
... HOWEVER ,
DO YOU KNOW WHY KINZO
WANTED TO HAVE YOU, AND NOT KRAUSS, INHERIT THE HEADSHIP, SO VEHEMENTLY?
...I ALREADY HAPPENED TO FIND IT STRANGE,
BUT SINCE IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT, I NEVER VOICED THOSE DOUBTS
WHY WAS MY FATHER
SKIPPED SO PROMPTLY AND I AM THE NEXT HEAD?

THERE'S NO WAY I'D KNOW
ARE YOU TELLING ME AGAIN NOT TO MAKE LIGHT OF THE HEART?
WHAT CAN YOU DEDUCE FROM THE HEART OF THE HEART?

YOU ARE
THE CHILD OF KINZO AND BEATRICE

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Translation: TheAceFrehley

Cleaning: JJ

Typesetting: Chris

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Chapter 17: Ushiromiya Lion's True Identity

IT'S BECAUSE
YOU ARE THE CHILD
OF KINZO AND BEATRICE
... WELL DONE

·GIGGLE·
·GIGGLE·
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU'D LET ME HAVE FUN THINKING FOR A BIT MORE

BERNKASTEL
..
WHEN
DID YOU LEARN THAT LION WAS A DESCENDANT OF BEATRICE?
WHEN I REALIZED THE AGE WAS 19
. IT'S A HINT THAT APPEARED AT THE TIME OF THE 5TH GAME.
THE BABY FROM 19 YEARS AGO AND THIS NUMBER MATCH
DIDN'T THAT BABY FALL FROM THE CLIFF?
THE BABY FROM 19 YEARS AGO WAS ACCEPTED BY NATSUHI,
AND DIDN'T FALL FROM THE CLIFF,
BECOMING LION

NOT MY MOM'S CHILD. ..!?
ON THE OTHER HAND,
.....
... THEN, I'M
IF NATSUHI REJECTED THE BABY,
THAT'S ABSURD ...
LION WOULDN'T EXIST
.....

EVEN SAYING THAT,
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD SOME IDEA ABOUT THIS
YOU ARE THE BABY KINZO BROUGHT FROM SOMEPLACE 19 YEARS AGO AFTER GROWING UP
NOT
SOMEPLACE
GIGGLE
THAT'S RIGHT
USHIROMIYA LION IS NOT NATSUHI'S CHILD
LION IS OBVIOUSLY A DESCENDANT OF BEATRICE
AND THE PROOF OF THAT IS
THE SILVER RING THAT IN MULTIPLE WORLDS
WAS ONLY GIVEN TO LION

...WHY DO YOU THINK
THAT HAVING THIS RING MEANS I'M A DESCENDANT FROM BEATRICE?
THIS SHOWS THAT,
IN ALL THE WORLDS,
YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON TO KINZO AFTER BEATRICE
19 YEARS AGO?
...IN OTHER WORDS,
ALSO, YOUR AGE IS 19
IF WE GO BACK TO WHAT HAPPENED 19 YEARS AGO,
THERE'S ONLY ONE THEORY WE CAN DERIVE

YOU MEAN THE STORY ROSA OBA-SAN TOLD US!?
...NO WAY
.....
TOGETHER WITH WILL, RIGHT?
AND THAT WAS TODAY,
...YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD ABOUT THAT, AS WELL, YOU KNOW?
WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS BORN?
YOU MEAN

ONE THEORY WAS BORN
AND THE AGE OF THE BABY IN THE 5TH GAME MATCHED THE SAME TIME FRAME,
WHEN ROSA'S STORY CAME OUT IN THE 3RD GAME,
THAT'S RIGHT

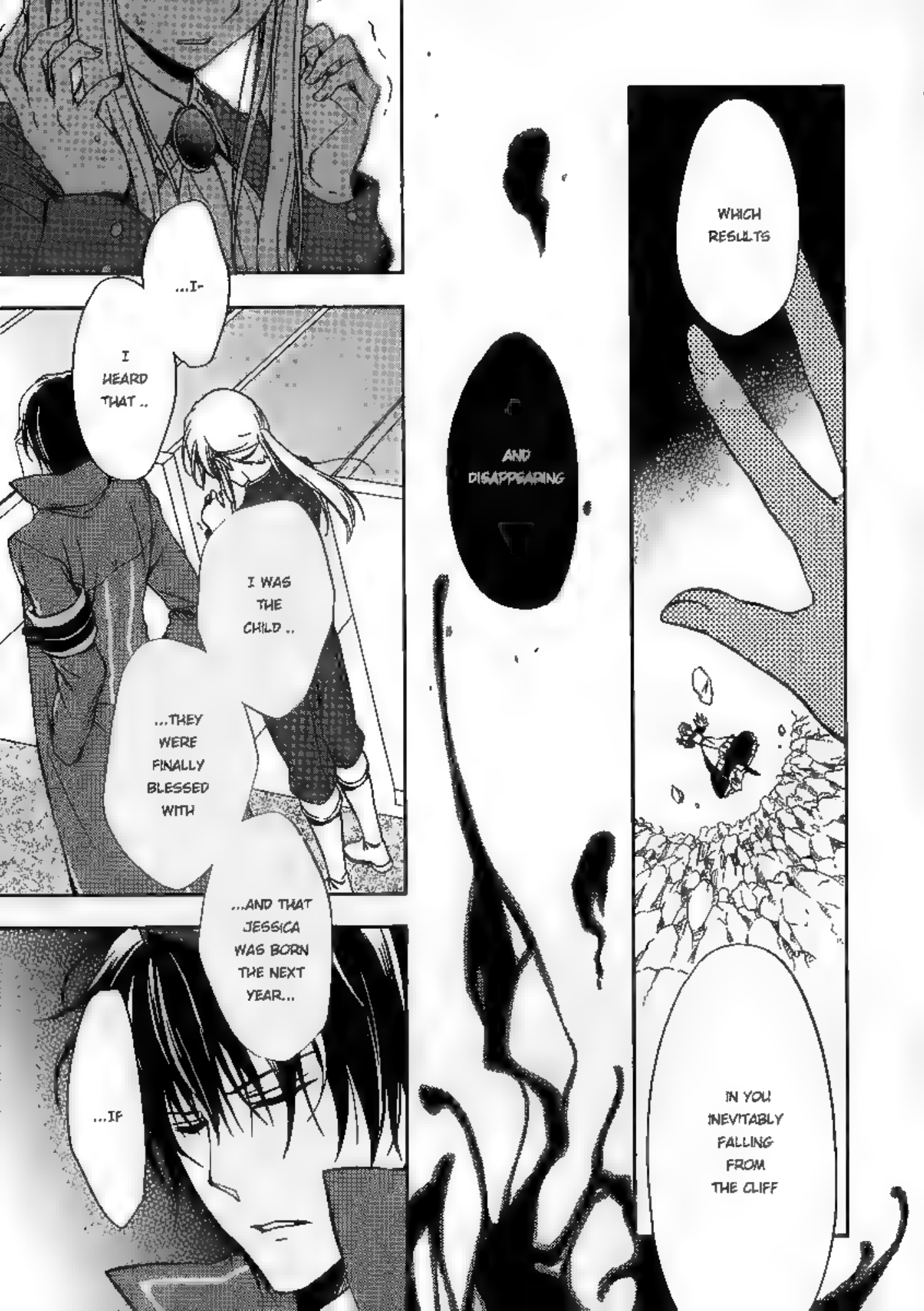
WAS PROOF THAT THAT BABY WAS SOMEONE SPECIAL
A BABY FROM GOD KNOWS WHERE AND ORDERING TO ADD IT TO HIS FAMILY
KINZO BRINGING HOME

I'M...
THE CHILD OF KUWADORIAN'S ..
... BEATRICE ..
KUWADORIAN'S BEATRICE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE BEATRICE THAT CAME IN THE SUBMARINE
...HOWEVER, KINZO DIDN'T THINK OF HER AS A DAUGHTER
BECAUS THEY LOOKED EXACTLY THE SAME
HE BELIEVED SHE WAS A REINCARNATION
... WHEN THAT REINCARNATION GREW UP TO THE SAME AGE AS THE FIRST BEATRICE, AND BECAME EVEN MORE LIKE HER,
KINZO MADE A MISTAKE
I... I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT

KINZO GOT BEATRICE PREGNANT WITH ANOTHER BEATRICE
FURTHERMORE, HE GOT THAT SECOND BEATRICE PREGNANT WITH YOU
THAT'S ABOUT IT

AT THE SAME TIME YOU ARE KINZO'S CHILD.
YOU'RE ALSO A GRANDCHILD OF BEATRICE
...THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS

...
KH
...
...IN MOST OF THE CASES,
NATSUHI FEELS DEEPLY HURT IN HER PRIDE AND REFUSES TO RAISE LION
KINZO REGRETTED HIS MISTAKE,
IN A LEGITIMATE WAY, AS HIS DESCENDANT
AND, THIS TIME, TRIED TO BRING YOU INTO THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY
THINKING WITH KINZO'S HEART,
THIS IS AN INEVITABLE THEORY
FOR THE REASON WHY HE'D TREAT YOU MORE SPECIALLY THAN ANYONE ELSE


...I-
I HEARD THAT ..
I WAS THE CHILD ..
...THEY WERE FINALLY BLESSED WITH
...AND THAT JESSICA WAS BORN THE NEXT YEAR...
...IF
AND DISAPPEARING
WHICH RESULTS
IN YOU INEVITABLY FALLING FROM THE CLIFF

UNTIL TODAY, YOU NEVER FELT ANY DOUBT YOU WERE NATSUHI'S CHILD,
...YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO YOUR MOTHER IN THIS WORLD
UNTIL TODAY, SHE SHOWERED YOU WITH LOVE EQUALLY WITH JESSICA,
WITHOUT LETTING YOU REALIZE THAT
☆TN: KAKERA = FRAGMENT, SINCE I'VE BEEN USING KAKERA IN PREVIOUS CHAPTERS, I'LL KEEP IT
... BECAUSE
I HAD A MIND-BOGGLING AMOUNT OF TROUBLE
TO FIND THIS KAKERA* YOU'RE IN
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE GRATEFUL

MATHEMATICALLY SPEAKING,
WITH A PROBABILITY OF 2578916 / 2578917,
NATSUHI REFUSES TO RAISE YOU
I'M THE ONE YOU SHOULD PROBABLY BE GRATEFUL TO FOR CREATING THIS MIRACLE
NOT NATSUHI,
YOU KNOW
STOP WITH THIS STUPID PROBABILITY PLAY
OH,
I'M SORRY
.....

I KNOW THAT
REGARDLESS OF WHO YOU ARE A DESCENDANT FROM,
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE DEBT YOU HAVE TO YOUR FAMILY
A BIT OF TIME TO CALM DOWN MY HEART
...BUT, I'D LIKE
IF YOU WILL NOT MAKE LIGHT OF MY HEART
... THAT IS,

.....
...
SURE
...LION
TO THE FAMILY THAT RAISED YOU WITH OPEN ARMS UNTIL TODAY...
YOU CAN BE GRATEFUL.

IF THE BABY HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY NATSUKI,
A FUTURE LIKE THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED
HOWEVER,
IF SHE DOESN'T ACCEPT IT,
THE BABY FROM 19 YEARS AGO THAT NATSUKI REFUSED TO RAISE
IS THE GOLDEN WITCH BEATRICE
...IN A DIFFERENT WORLD
I THINK
MOMENTS LIKE THESE ARE HILARIOUS ...
USHIROMIYA LION
THAT'S FUNNY
... THE GOLDEN WITCH BEATRICE
HAD AN EXTREMELY LOW PROBABILITY OF LEAVING AN ORDINARY LIFE
I KNOW, RIGHT?

THE WITCH WILL BE BORN
THE BABY THAT DIDN'T HAVE THEIR BIRTH BLESSED
WILL BECOME A WITCH
THE DEAD GIRL
IS LION
... BUT
LION'S EXISTENCE IN ITSELF
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ROKKENJIMA MURDER CASE THAT YOU ARE SO INTERESTED IN

...IN OTHER WORDS,
IF YOU OPEN THE CAT BOX, THE CAT THAT VANISHES IS LION
GIGGLE
THAT'S HOW IT IS
IN THE END,
LION IS THE CAT THAT VANISHES
BUT,
FOR A SIDE SHOW, IT WAS FUNNY, RIGHT?
IF I HAD NOT BEEN IMPRISONED HERE,
I WOULDN'T EVEN TAKE THE TROUBLE TO DEDUCE THIS
.....
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HAVING FUN HERE

WHY I WAS CHOSEN TO BE YOUR PARTNER IN THIS STRANGE DETECTIVE GAME
...I THINK I KNOW
...IT LOOKS LIKE THE WITCH CALLED BERNKASTEL
OH, AMAZING
...IT'S RARE TO FIND A PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS ME
ON THE SAME DAY WE MEET . .
LIKES TO TOY WITH PEOPLE'S FATE
AND TO RIDICULE THEM
IT LOOKS LIKE I BECOME A BEING THAT IS CALLED WITCH IN A DIFFERENT WORLD
AND IT SEEMS THAT I CAUSE SOME INCIDENT

IS THAT

THAT'S NOT YOUR SIN
MY SIN?
YOU ARE YOU
WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THE COIN HAD FLIPPED THE OTHER WAY
IS OF NO CONCERN TO YOU

AFTER HEARING THAT THEY CAUSED SOME KIND OF TROUBLE IN A DIFFERENT WORLD
HOWEVER,
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD BE PLEASED
...THANK YOU
...PLEASE, TELL ME
WHAT DID I DO
IN THAT OTHER WORLD

...BERNKASTEL
HOW ABOUT SHOWING THE KAKERA TO THIS CHILD?
.....
WHAT IS THIS ..?
THE MEMORIES OF ALL THE GAMES SO FAR
...THE RECORDS
...TOUCH THIS
AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE FATES OF DIFFERENT WORLDS

OF COURSE
...YOU'LL BE HAPPIER IF YOU DON'T TOUCH IT
THAT'S WHAT YOUR FACE SEEMS TO BE TELLING ME, AM I RIGHT?
YOU'VE PROBABLY ALREADY GUESSED,
BUT THIS ISN'T A HAPPY STORY
IF YOU CAN CONVINCE YOURSELF THAT THE OTHER ONE
IS SOMEONE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM YOU,
...YOU CAN TOUCH THIS

YOU WANT TO KNOW IT, RIGHT...?
YOU HAVE BOTH THE RIGHT TO KNOW
AND THE RIGHT TO NOT KNOW IT
DO YOU WANT
ABOUT THE FATE
...AS YOUR PARTNER, I'LL ASK
YOU COULD HAVE POSSIBLY FOLLOWED
TO SHOW THAT TO ME?

.....
.....
ARE YOU
.....
A MAN
OR A WOMAN ?

.....
AS YOUR PARTNER,
I'D TELL YOU TO TAKE A LOOK
HOWEVER, AS A FRIEND.
I'LL TELL YOU NOT TO LOOK

THAT'S TOO BAD
BECAUSE I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND

I ALSO
HAVE ONE THING TO ASK YOU AS A PARTNER

..
BERNKASTEL KNOWS THE ANSWER BUT IS KEEPING IT, TOO
HOWEVER, AS A WOMAN,
YOU'D LOOK LIKE ONE WITH A STOUT-HEARTED BEHAVIOUR
...THAT WAS A SUDDEN QUESTION
AS A MAN,
YOU'D LOOK LIKE A SLENDER ONE.

SHE KEPT MAKING JESSICA CALL YOU IN AN ABSTRACT WAY LIKE SUCCESSOR SAMA,
INSTEAD OF 'BIG BROTHER' OR 'BIG SISTER'
..YOU'RE A REALLY PERCEPTIVE MAN

THEREFORE, I'LL REGRETFULLY ANSWER LIKE THIS
... I'M OFTENLY ASKED ABOUT MY GENDER

...WHICH DO I LOOK LIKE?
.....
IN THE 5TH GAME, THEY SAID YOU WERE A MAN
HOWEVER, IN SEVERAL GAMES, ONE COULD THINK YOU WERE A WOMAN
IN THE 6TH GAME, TWO DEMONS OF DIFFERENT GENDERS APPEARED, NOT BEING CLEAR WHO WAS WHICH.
AND THEY HINTED AT THAT
...NO, STRICTLY SPEAKING, IT'S BEEN SINCE THE VERY FIRST GAME
...YOUR GENDER
IS ONE OF THE RIDDLES HIDDEN OUTSIDE OF THE GAME

... THAT'S WHY I WON'T
IT'D BE REGRETTABLE TO JUST MEEKLY ANSWER YOU
:
I'M YOUR PARTNER, RIGHT?
IF MY GENDER DOESN'T PLEASE YOU,
WOULD THAT BE INCONVENIENT FOR YOU?
THANK YOU
YOU'RE CORRECT
THE GENDER OF MY PARTNER DOESN'T MATTER TO ME
.....
NO

...I'VE GOT A COMPLEX ABOUT MY APPEARANCE,
SO YOUR WORDS MAKE ME HAPPY
I'M IN FAVOR OF GENDER EQUALITY
...SO THAT USELESS PEOPLE
CAN BE EQUALLY PUNCHED

IF SOMEONE
HAS NO MANNERS, I PINCH THEM EQUALLY, REGARDLESS OF BEING A MAN OR A WOMAN, TOO

ハハ
ハハ
ハハ

!
スル
A PERFECT PIECE AS YOUR PARTNER, RIGHT?
...SO, LION WAS CAPABLE TO KNOW EVERYTHING

NEXT UP IS
THE TURN OF THE LIVING CAT
CONTINUING MY DEDUCTION
...I'VE TALKED ABOUT THE DEAD CAT
THAT'S RIGHT

WTDND
GROUP

Translation: TheAceFrehley

Cleaning: JJ

Typesetting: Chris

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Episode 7:
Requiem of the golden witch

原作・監修 竜騎士07
作画 水野英多

THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD KILL THE BEATRICE OF 1986
IS THE PERSON WHO GAVE BIRTH TO HER
THERE WERE LOADS OF HINTS
THINKING BACK,
THEY WERE THERE EVER SINCE THE TIME OF BEATRICE'S GAMES
THAT'S RIGHT
IN THE 4TH GAME BETWEEN BEATRICE AND BATTLER,
HER ORIGIN WAS PRETTY CLEAR

AT THAT MOMENT
I UNDERSTOOD
WHO WAS BEATRICE
AND HER HEART
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY HEART?
HER MOTIVE

...THE REASON WHY,
ON OCTOBER 5TH, 1986,
BEATRICE HAD TO CAUSE A GAME-LIKE INCIDENT...
PUTTING
EVEN HER OWN FATE ON THE LINE

IT'S IMPRESSIVE
THEN,
WHAT ABOUT THE 'HOW-DUNNIT'?
HOW YOU MANAGED TO FIGURE OUT
THE 'WHO-DUNNIT' AND THE 'WHY-DUNNIT' BY THE 4TH GAME
IF YOU KNOW WHO IS THE CULPRIT,
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEDUCE THAT
THE LAST RIDDLE OF THE 4TH GAME,
THE 'WHOOO AM I?'
. DID YOU SOLVE IT?
THE CHAIN OF CLOSED ROOMS OF THE 3RD GAME WAS SO WELL DONE IT ALMOST GOT ME APPLAUDING

THE CULPRIT THAT IS ABLE TO KILL WITHOUT FAIL, REGARDLESS OF PLACE,
ON OCTOBER, 6TH,
AT 24:00
AT THAT POINT, A CERTAIN HYPOTHESIS IS POSSIBLE
AND THAT WOULD BE
THE OTHER TREASURE OF THE GOLDEN LAND.
HEE
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU REACHED ALL THE ANSWERS WITH ONLY BEATO'S GAMES?
IT'S A POSSIBILTY

WHO IS THE CULPRIT?
THEN,
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU ENDED YOUR DODGINGS
SO TELL ME, PLEASE?
AFTER THAT, THE GAME BETWEEN LAMBDADELTA AND BATTLER
WAS FILLED WITH HINTS SUPPLEMENTING THAT EVEN MORE
JUST LIKE THIS GAME OF YOURS

コツン
コツン
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コツ

YOU CALLED THIS PERSON?
SO YOU CAME, HUH?
YEAH

ARE YOU ALREADY CHANGING YOUR MIND ABOUT YOUR QUEST?
THERE IS NO CURE FOR THIS DISEASE, RIGHT?
YOU WOULD MAKE A GRAND EX-HUNTER AND BLADE TRAINER
THE PERSON SUPPORT FROM FOR SUCH A THING ANYMORE
THE END

I COMPREHEND
THE SURVIVE OF THIS PERSON
AND
AND-AND
AND-AND-AND
AND-AND-AND

I COMPREHENDED YOUR MOTIVE
. YOUR HEART
AND IF THAT WAS FULFILLED,
THERE IS NOT ANY INTENTION OF MAKING EXCUSES WITH WORD PLAY ANYMORE...
TO BE NOTICED
AND NOW, I'M GOING TO .SAY IT
THE REASON I CALLED YOU HERE
WAS TO LISTEN AND, IF I MADE ANY MISTAKE,
I WANTED YOU TO CORRECT ME WITH YOUR OWN WORDS
I THINK

UNDERSTOOD YOUR MESSAGE WITH YOUR 4 GAMES,
I
...AND, WITH THE 3 GAMES BY DIFFERENT MASTERS,
I COULD IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF STRANGE FATE MUST HAVE TOYED WITH YOU.
AND IT LEFT ME SPEECHLESS
IN ALL THE GAMES,
WITHOUT REVEALING THAT TO ANYONE,

...YOU DIE
---EVEN IF
I MAKE THIS PERSON CONFESS IN THIS EMPTY CHAPEL,
IT MAY BE COMPLETELY MEANINGLESS
HOWEVER, IF, EVEN SO, IT CAN BECOME SOME SALVATION...
I'LL BELIEVE
IF PEOPLE---
CAN ONLY BE SAVED AFTER BEING UNDERSTOOD BY SOMEONE, AS THEY SAY

TOO LATE FOR THAT MAN
TO COMPREHEND HER
IT'S ALREADY
...BY THE MAN
SHE WANTED THE MOST TO UNDERSTAND HER
NOW, SOMEONE COULD VERY WELL FORGIVE A PITIABLE WITCH WHOSE LIFE ENDED WITHOUT BEING COMPREHENDED

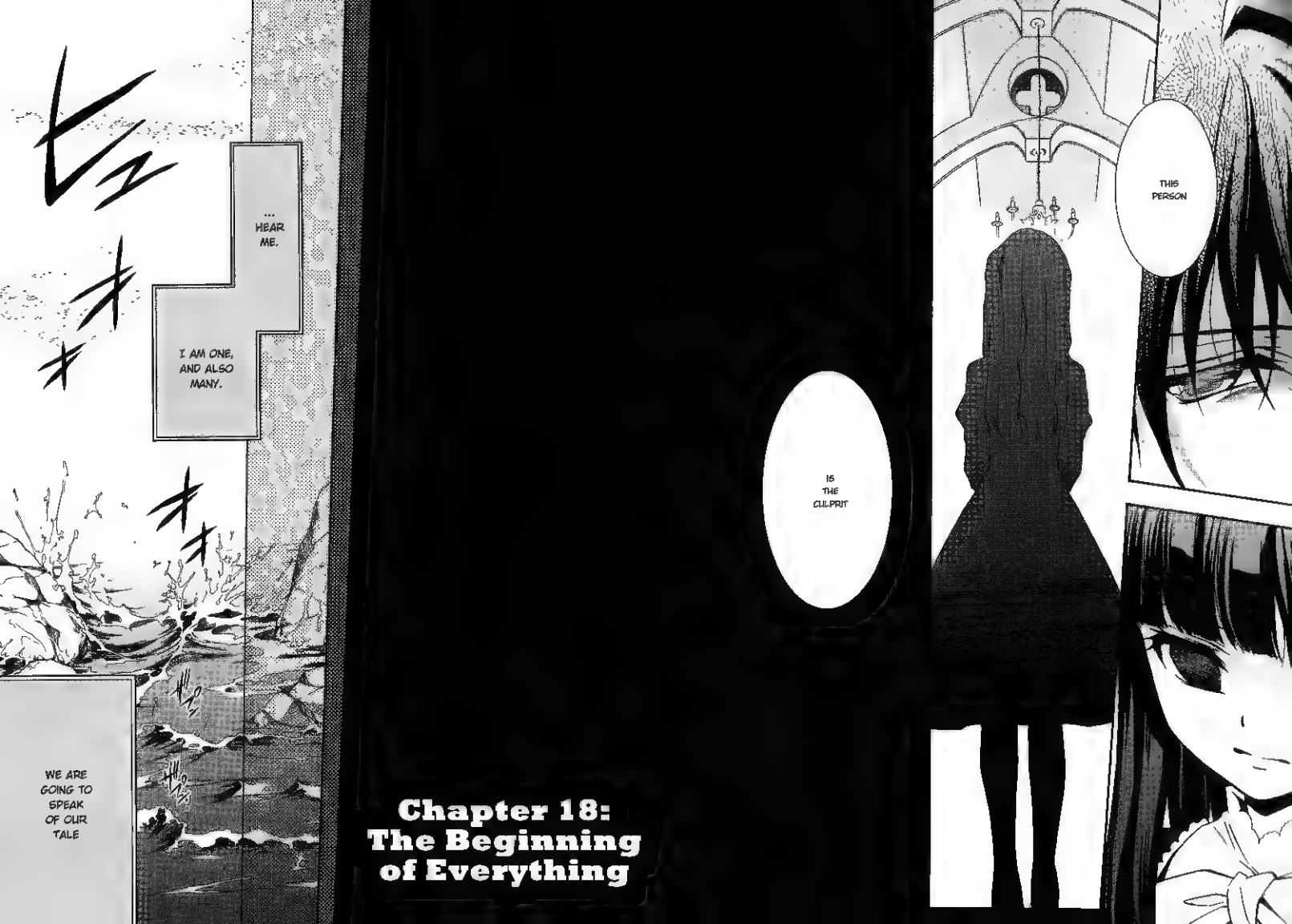
BATTLER
I DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME
FOR THAT REASON,
BATTLER
BATTLER CAN'T SAVE HER
FOR THAT REASON, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ALIVE HERE,
HE WON'T COME
IS NOT AT BEATRICE'S FUNERAL

HE WOULDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME

THIS IS
BEATRICE'S FUNERAL
YOU'LL CONFESS
THE DIVINE MASTER WILL HEAR
AND I'LL FORGIVE
BATTLER WOULD BE A BETTER CHOICE FOR THAT ROLE,
BUT HE DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE WITH ME

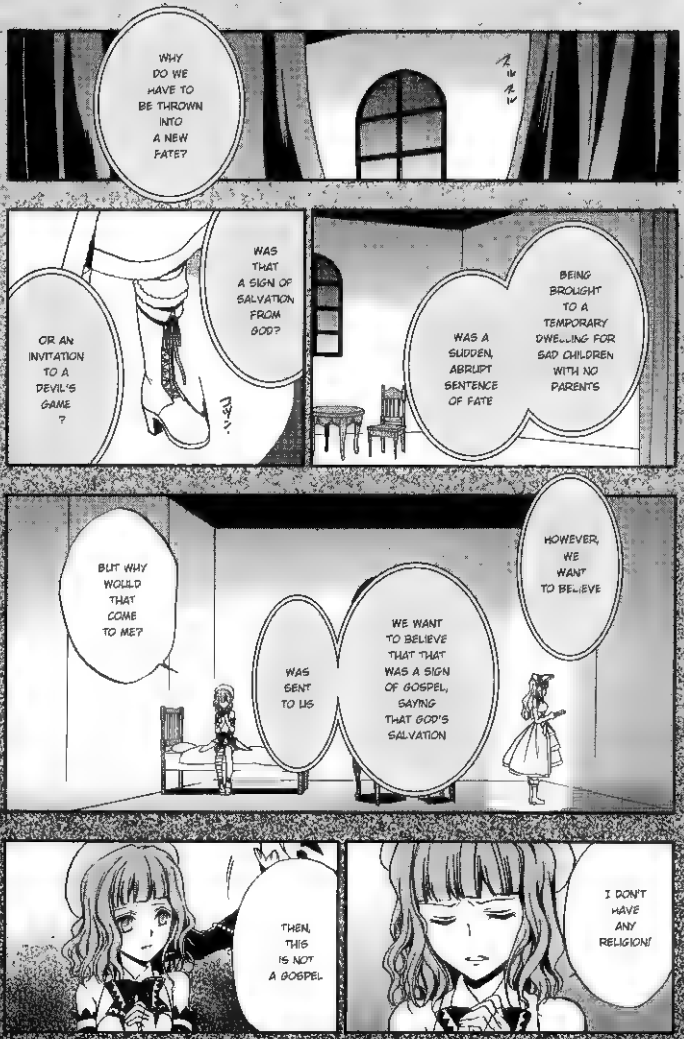
EVEN THOUGH BEATO GAVE SO MANY HINTS,
LAMBDA STILL PROVIDED EVEN MORE HINTS FOR THAT STUPID BATTLER
IN CONTRAST WITH THAT,
BATTLER'S OWN GAME OF REPENTANCE WAS JUST LAUGHABLE
...BUT I WON'T MAKE YOU
LAUGH AT ANYTHING
I'LL ONLY
HOLD YOUR FUNERA... INDIFFERENTLY
NO MORE CHATTERING FROM YOU.
I'M THE ONE DOING THE TALKING HERE

IF YOU'RE READY,
LET'S BEGIN
. NOBODY IS GOING TO RUSH YOU.
BERNKASTEL IS FREEZING TIME FOR ETERNITY,
UNTIL YOUR FUNERAL IS OVER
WE HAVE AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF TIME, IF YOU NEED TO PUT YOUR HEART IN ORDER
I SEE
THEY'RE READY.. HUH


... HEAR ME.
I AM ONE, AND ALSO MANY.
WE ARE GOING TO SPEAK OF OUR TALE
Chapter 18: The Beginning of Everything
IS THE CULPRIT
THIS PERSON

HOWEVER, THIS IS A SMALL WORLD, SEALED BY GLASS AND CORK, WITH NO ONE TO HEAR.
IT SEALS ALL OF MY TALE,
WITH NONE TO LAY EYES UPON IT
SET ADRIFT IN THE SEA OF MY HEART, DISAPPEARING ALONG WITH THE SEAWEED ON THE OCEAN.
AAH,
WHERE AM I?
AND WHO AM I?

'WHERE' AND 'WHO' ARE TRIVIAL THINGS, AFTER ALL!!
THEN, I'LL ASK YOU!
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE?
WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE!?
ANY PLACE THAT EMBRACES ME GENTLY!
ANYONE, AS LONG AS I AM TREATED GENTLY
THAT'S RIGHT, FOR US!
FOR US!


WHY DO WE HAVE TO BE THROWN INTO A NEW FATE?
WAS THAT A SIGN OF SALVATION FROM GOD?
OR AN INVITATION TO A DEVIL'S GAME ?
BEING BROUGHT TO A TEMPORARY DWELLING FOR SAD CHILDREN WITH NO PARENTS
WAS A SUDDEN, ABRUPT SENTENCE OF FATE
HOWEVER, WE WANT TO BELIEVE
WE WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THAT WAS A SIGN OF GOSPEL, SAYING THAT GOD'S SALVATION
WAS SENT TO US
BUT WHY WOULD THAT COME TO ME?
I DON'T HAVE ANY RELIGION!
THEN, THIS IS NOT A GOSPEL

IT'S AN INVITATION FROM THE DEVIL!
WE CANNOT OPPOSE FATE
HOWEVER,
TIME GOES BACK 10 YEARS FROM NOW
1976 AD, APRIL
A TIME WHICH IS TOO COLD TO BE CALLED SPRING
AAH,
I AM ONE, AND ALSO MANY
I PRAY THAT THE NEW FATE BLESSES US

CHAPTER ONE: NEW LIFE!

THESE ARE
THE RULES OF THIS HOUSE
I KNOW THEY ARE STRICT,
BUT I BELIEVE THE DISCIPLINE YOU LEARN IN THIS HOUSE WILL BE USEFUL IN THE FUTURE TO ALL OF YOU
YES

MADAM
FUKUIN* HOUSE
AN ORPHANAGE THAT OPERATED RECEIVING THE SUPPORT OF USHIROMIYA KINZO
*THE FUKUIN MEANS GOSPEL
INTENDING TO START A HAPPY LIFE AFTER LEAVING THE FUKUIN HOUSE,
EVERYONE FOCUSED ON THEIR STUDIES WITH ENTHUSIASM TO RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION TO BE A SERVANT FOR THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY
A BIG SALARY AND BACKUP FOR REEMPLOYMENT
IF YOU BECOME A SERVANT,
YOU CAN OBTAIN THOSE

THEN,
STARTING TOMORROW, YOU NEED TO BE HERE EARLY
DON'T FORGET THE TIME TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.
DISMISSED
THAT IS ALL FOR TODAY
YES, MADAM. THANK YOU VERY MUCH
... OK

THEN, THIS IS ALL FOR TODAY
STARTING TOMORROW FOLLOW YOUR SHIFT SCHEDULE
MADAM IS VERY STRICT ABOUT TIME.
IF YOU SLEEP IN LATE, I'LL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE

BY THE WAY,
"HOW STRICT IS THIS?"
"EEEH"
IF YOU SLEEP IN LATE, I'LL KICK YOU AWAKE

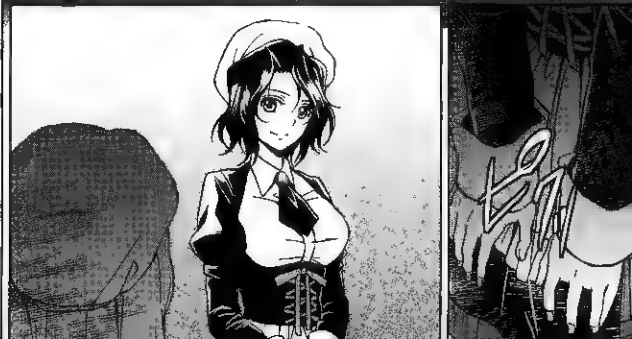
WHO IS THIS CHILD?
WHY WAS THIS PERSON CHOSEN TO BE A SERVANT?
ビクッ
CERTAINLY, THEY MUST BE FEELING PUZZLED
NORMALLY, SERVANTS ARE SELECTED FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
BUT, I WAS
JUST STARTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DIFFERENTLY FROM THE OTHER SERVANTS,
ON WEEKDAYS, I WOULD ATTEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON NIIJIMA TOGETHER WITH OJOU-SAMA,
AND ONLY DURING MY FREE TIME AND ON THE WEEKENDS I WOULD BE WORKING
THAT WAS AN EXCEPTION AMONG EXCEPTIONS, WITHOUT PRECEDENTS
AND, OF COURSE, THE OTHER SERVANTS DIDN'T ACCEPT MY PRESENCE
MADAM AND GENJI-SAMA SAID
THAT YOUR SCHOOL WORK WAS MAXIMUM PRIORITY
AND STILL GETTING PAID.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS
BEEH, REALLY?
. IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK BEHIND SOMEONE'S BACK, DO IT BEHIND THEM.
IS THIS ONE THAT SMART?
A CHILD PRODIGY?
I HAVE NO IDEA
THAT ONE SEEMED KINDA FRAIL AND ISOLATED
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ONE AT ALL EVEN IN THE HOUSE

LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST TOGETHER
OK?

NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE, YOU'RE BEARING THE COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TOO
..ISTEN

IF YOU SCREW UP, I'LL LOOK LIKE A SCREW UP BY EVERYBODY FROM THE FUKUIN HOUSE
SO, FOCUS ON WHAT YOU'RE DOING
DON'T WORRY
I'M HERE WITH YOU



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Typesetting: Chris

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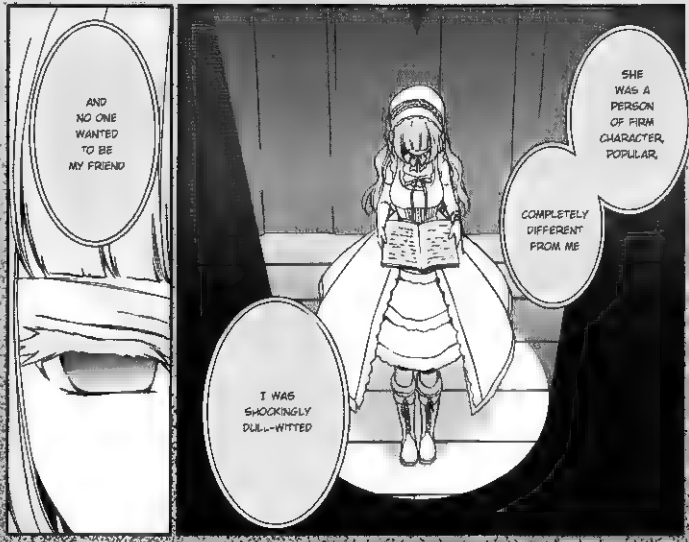
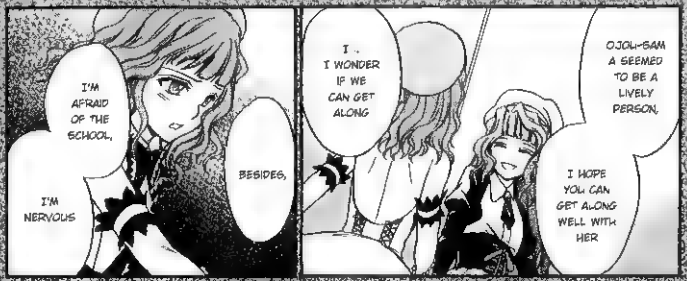
...
SHANNON
WAS
MY ONLY
FRIEND
BACK IN
THE FUKUIN
HOUSE


AND NO ONE WANTED TO BE MY FRIEND
I WAS SHOCKINGLY DULL-WITTED
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM ME
SHE WAS A PERSON OF FIRM CHARACTER, POPULAR,

Chapter 19: New Life

NO
NOT SCARED AT ALL
YOU JUST THINK IT IS SCARY,
SO YOU GET SCARED
YEAH, IT'LL BECOME FUN
SO, LET'S GIVE OUR BEST WITH A SMILE ON OUR FACES HERE AS WELL
THEN, I WONDER IF I THINK IT IS FUN,
IT WILL BECOME FUN
THE REASON I COULD GIVE MY BEST AT FUKUIN HOUSE
WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS ALWAYS ENCOURAGING ME
THEN,
YOU'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GIVE YOUR BEST TOGETHER WITH HER, IN THIS PLACE TOO
WELL,
LET'S HURRY AND GET READY FOR BED

STARTING TOMORROW, I HAVE TO GET TO WORK RIGHT AWAY,
BUT YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT JOB
YES,
I'M DIFFERENT FROM EVERYBODY ELSE
I HAVE TO ATTEND SCHOOL TOGETHER WITH OJOU-SAMA


OJOU-SAMA SEEMED TO BE A LIVELY PERSON,
I . . I WONDER IF WE CAN GET ALONG
I HOPE YOU CAN GET ALONG WELL WITH HER
BESIDES,
I'M AFRAID OF THE SCHOOL,
I'M NERVOUS

TO ME, WHO WAS USED TO THE LIFE AT THE FUKUIN HOUSE,
A SCHOOL WITH RELAXED RULES WAS SOMETHING COMFORTABLE

HOWEVER,
UNTIL I GREW USED TO IT, EVERYTHING WAS NEW
AND
CAUSED ME ANXIETY ...

IT WAS HURRIED AND BUSY
DAYS AS A SERVANT WORKING FOR THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY ON ROKKENJIMA,
MY NEW LIFE ON ROKKENJIMA
IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE LUKEWARM, SLUGGISH AND STAGNANT DAYS UNTIL THEN
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF NEW DAYS WITH NO TIME TO RELAX
AND DAYS ATTENDING SCHOOL IN NIJIMA WERE GIVEN TO ME AT THE SAME TIME
HALF OF THE WEEK, I SLEEP ON A BED
IN THE SERVANT WAITING ROOM IN THE MANSION ON ROKKENJIMA
IN THIS PLACE, I CAN'T SLEEP IN THE SAME BED EVERYDAY

AFTER SCHOOL, I COME HOME WITH OJOU-SAMA AND HEAD TO THE MANSION.
AND THERE, I WORK AS A SERVANT
AND STAY THERE UNTIL NEXT MORNING.
WHEN I GO TO SCHOOL WITH OJOU-SAMA AGAIN
BUT
EITHER BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE OR LUCK,
I WAS NOT GIVEN A THREE PERSON ROOM
THE ROOMS WERE A BIT LARGE, ENOUGH TO HOUSE THREE PEOPLE
ON THE DAYS I DON'T HAVE TO WORK,
I GO BACK TO THE DORMITORY ON NIIJIMA WHERE I CAN SPEND MY TIME FREELY IN THE ROOM ASSIGNED TO ME

I FELT LIKE I COULD KEEP GOING
WE ARE IN THE SAME ROOM IN THE DORMITORY, AS WEL...
IF I WAS GOING TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH SHANNON

I WAS THROWN INTO A STRANGE PLACE
...AGAIN
SO, THIS TIME, ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW ME A STAGE PLAY?

ARE YOU FEE..ING WELL, NOW?
YEAH
IT'S JUST THAT THE SHOCK WAS TOO BIG WITH SEVERAL THINGS
I'M JUST A BIT DIZZY, NOW
I SEE
WHO ARE THEY ?
JUST THINK OF THEM AS NARRATOR AND MASTER OF CEREMONIES
IF YOU THINK TOO HARD, IT'L.. GIVE YOU A HEADACHE
HEY
THIS STAGE IS A CONFESSION BY THE 'CULPRIT'
WELL, JUST BE QUIET AND WATCH

AS IT IS GOING, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL ENTERTAIN ME
YES, EVERY YEAR NEW SERVANTS FROM THE FUKUIN HOUSE
CAME TO REPLACE SOME OF THE OLD ONES
WE COULD NOT HAVE A SAY IN ANYTHING
AFTER ALL, THAT WAS SOMETHING FATHER DECIDED WITH THEM ALL ON HIS OWN

I THOUGHT OF ALL THAT AS THE RICH USHIROMIYA FAMILY'S OBLIGATION TO SOCIETY
AND SUPPORTS THEM AS THEY FLAP THEIR WINGS HEADING TO SOCIETY
THIS FAMILY TEACHES DISCIPLINE TO CHILDREN WITH NO RELATIVES,
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF CHILDREN CAME TO THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY?
SURELY ONES
WITH IRREPROACHABLE CONDUCT! DILIGENT AND LOVELY CHILDREN!
I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF CHILDREN LIKE GLARING HYENAS THERE
LET'S JUST SAY THEY WERE VERY AMBITIOUS
THEY ARE CHILDREN WITH NO RELATIVES
THEY WERE JUST
OVERFLOWING WITH ENTHUSIASM TO GRAB HOLD OF THEIR OWN LIFE, STARTING WITH THIS PRECIOUS OPPORTUNITY
DID ALL OF THEM HAVE TO BALANCE SCHOOL LIFE AND SERVANT LIFE?
THAT'S THOUGH!
NO
BEFORE THAT CHILD, THERE WAS NEVER A PRECEDENT
OF A CHILD ATTENDING SCHOOL AND WORKING HERE

THE OTHER KIDS WERE RANGING FROM 16 TO 18 YEARS OLD
ONLY THAT KID LOOKED 10 YEARS YOUNGER
TO BE HONEST, I WAS SURPRISED WHEN THAT KID GREETED ME
CLEARLY VERY YOUNG
SERVANTS COMING FROM THE FUKUIN HOUSE THAT WERE TOO YOUNG
VISITED THIS HOUSE STRICTLY AS EXPERIENCE
THEREFORE, FROM THE BEGGINING, I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH EXPECTATIONS FOR THAT KID'S SKILLS AS A SERVANT
EVEN SO, TO ACCEPT A PRESCHOOL CHILD
NOT ONLY UNABLE TO DO DOMESTIC CHORES,
LET ALONE HAVING PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE, THE CHILD HASN'T EVEN FINISHED COMPULSORY EDUCATION
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT FATHER WAS THINKING,
BUT I THOUGHT THAT TO BE CLEARLY STRANGE
I SPOKE TO FATHER ABOUT IT

I SAID THE KID SHOULD LEARN AT THE PUKUIN HOUSE AT LEAST UNTIL GRADUATING FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL
AND WHAT DID KINZO ANSWER?
OF COURSE, HE'D ANSWER LIKE THIS
'OOOH'
'BEATRICEE ~~!!'
HAA HAA HAA.
AT THAT TIME, HE WAS ALREADY IMMERSED IN OCCULTISM AND LOCKED IN HIS STUDY
IF I SAID ANYTHING UNNECESSARY, I'D BE YELLED AT
WHEN FATHER DECIDES SOMETHING, IT'S DEFINITIVE
.. HOWEVER,
AT LEAST REGARDING THAT CHILD, IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE

I ASKED FOR INFORMATION IN THE FUKUIN HOUSE, TOO
AND THEY TOLD ME TO ASK GENJI-SAN
WHEN I ASKED GENJI-SAN
HE TOLD ME TO ASK THE MASTER
AND WHEN HE ASKS THE MASTER
HE SAYS "BEATRICEEEE !"
JESSICA IS THE ONLY CHILD ON THE ISLAND
IT SEEMED THE SERVANTS OFTENLY PLAYED WITH OUR DAUGHTER,
BUT, INDEED, SHE WISHED FOR A FRIEND CLOSE TO HER AGE
YES

FEELING SORRY FOR JESSICA
FATHER CERTAINLY WAS BEING CONSIDERATE WITH HER
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
HOWEVER
WE SHOULD BE THE ONES TO DECIDE
WHO IS APPROPRIATE TO BE A FRIEND OF OUR DAUGHTER
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WOULDN'T YOU HAVE LIKED TO HAVE THIS MATTER DISCUSSED WITH US?
SOO SCAARY!
あはは
NATSUMI MUST HAVE REALLY HATED BRINGING HER DAUGHTER TO THE PARK FOR THE FIRST TIME!

BENJI-SAN KNEW THAT THE ME OF THAT WORLD WAS A DESCENDANT OF GRANDFATHER
SO HE PROBABLY
PREPARED EVERYTHING TO BRING THAT CHILD TO ROKKENJIMA
WE SHOULD PROBABLY
SEE THIS AS BENJI'S PLANNING
I GUESS SO
HOWEVER,
IN A DIFFERENT WORLD, YOU ARE A SERVANT
NO, MAYBE A WITCH
IN THIS WORLD, YOU'RE THE SUCCESSOR
TOTALLY
YOU HAVE
A FATE FULL OF HARDSHIPS

I'D LIKE TO
IF I COULD FORGET THAT NOW.
I DON'T REGRET TOUCHING THAT KAKERA, BUT

EVEN THOUGH A SERVANT, THE CHILD IS ACTUALLY AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD CARRYING THE BLOOD OF THE HEAD
INTERESTING

..IF YOU THINK ABOUT MOM'S FEELINGS, IT IS PRETTY COMPLICATED
SUCH A ROMANTIC STORY, ALMOST LIKE A FAIRY-TALE
ROMANTIC?
U HU HU, THAT'S RIGHT
TO NATSUHI, THE LION OF THIS WORLD
IS NOTHING MORE THAN A BABY SHE DIDN'T LIKE, AND WAS FORCED TO RAISE

IT'S ALSO A WORLD WHERE SHE REJECTED IT
. TO NATSUHI, HER NATURAL CHILD JESSICA MUST BE HUNDREDS TIMES MORE DEAR
A BABY THAT DOESN'T CARRY HER OWN BLOOD
MUST BE THE SAME AS A LUKEWARM LEATHER BAG OF GARBAGE
CHOOSE YOUR WORDS BETTER
I CAN PINCH BUTTS, TOO
... THANK YOU.
WILL

I GUESS
I HAVE A GOOD GRASP OF THE SITUATION
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO BE EVEN MORE GRATEFUL TO MY MOTHER
SHE'S RAISED ME
ALL THESE YEARS, WITH FAIRNESS
EVEN THOUGH THIS TOOK A MIRACLE TO HAPPEN
ANIMALS ARE USUALLY BRUTA.. WITH CHILDREN THAT DO NOT CARRY THEIR BLOOD
PERHAPS GENJI THOUGHT LIKE THIS

THE LION OF THIS WORLD
IS A LEGITIMATE MEMBER OF THE ISHIROMIYA FAMILY
I WANT TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE THAT CHILD LIVE ON ROKKENJIMA
HOWEVER, HE COULDN'T JUST BRING THE KID HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN,
AND TELL WHO IT WAS
. I THINK SO
I WONDER IF HE INTENDED TO MAKE THE CHILD LIVE ON ROKKENJIMA,
BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE PLACE, AND THEN USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVEAL EVERYTHING
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THE LION OF THIS WORLD RECEIVES SPECIAL TREATMENT

THE SILVER RING DOESN'T ACTUALLY EXIST'S THERE
I WONDER IF THAT MEANS GRANDFATHER HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT ME
OR PERHAPS
IT JUST MEANS THAT
THE TIMING WHEN GENJI SHOULD REVEAL EVERYTHING HAD NOT ARRIVED YET .
GENJI
PROBABLY WANTED TO TELL HIM THAT THE ORPHAN CARRYING THE BLOOD OF HIS BELOVED BEATRICE
WAS ALIVE
HOWEVER, TELLING THAT WAS NOT EASY

JESSICA WOULDN'T BE THE SUCCESSOR ANYMORE!
AAH, I SEE
IF LION APPEARED ALL OF A SUDDEN,
WHY IS IT NOT EASY?
DON'T BE STUPID, IF NATSUMI KNOWS THAT, IT'LL MEAN TROUBLE, YOU KNOW!?
IT'S A TALE THAT THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE HARDER IT GETS
TO BE MORE ACCURATE, IT WOULD BE JESSICA'S FUTURE HUSBAND THAT WOULDN'T BE THE SUCCESSOR ANYMORE!
FOR EACH PERSON WHO WOULD BLESS MY BIRTH,
THERE IS ANOTHER WHO WOULDN'T DO THAT

GENJI CAN DO NOTHING
BUT TO WAIT FOR THE DAY TO REVEAL EVERYTHING
IS THAT A TALE KEPT ONLY INSIDE GENJI'S CHEST?
YES!
LION, KINZO, NATSUHI, KRAUSS, JESSICA, AND ALL THE OTHERS!
NONE OF THEM KNOWS THE TALE!
THIS CURIOUS TALE
SLOWLY STARTS TO OPEN ITS CURTAINS IN 1978
THUS

AAH
I AM ONE, YET MANY
WHY MUST FATE ABANDON US
AND CONTINUE TO ADVANCE, SELFISHLY AND WHIMSICALLY ?
THE YOUNG SERVANT CAME TO THE ISHIROMIYA FAMILY
IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MANNER
DURING THE FIRST MONTH
EVERYBODY ONLY FOUND THAT STRANGE

IT'S NOT LIKE ANY REAL HARM IS BEING DONE.
IN THAT CASE, JUST LET KINZO DO AS HE WISHES
BEFORE LONG, EVERYONE GROWS USED TO THAT SITUATION AND STARTS TO ACCEPT THIS DISTORTED EVERYDAY LIFE
HOWEVER,
THAT WAS NOT THE CASE FOR THE SERVANTS FROM THE FUKUIN HOUSE,
WHO WERE A...WAYS CLOSE BY AND BELIEVED EVERYBODY SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY
THEY WERE ACCUMULATING BITS OF DISCONTENT OVER THE TREATMENT GIVEN TO ME
WHICH WAS CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT GIVEN TO THEM.
AH
SAWACHI, GOOD JOB

AT THE FUKUIN HOUSE, THEY TREAT ALL THE CHILDREN AS FAMILY

BECAUSE OF THAT, THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO CALL THEMSELVES BY THE NEW NAME GIVEN TO THEM THERE

IN MOST CASES, THE NEW NAME IS FORMED BY COMBINING THE CHARACTER FOR 'SOUND', 音, AND A CHARACTER OF THE ORIGINAL NAME, BUT

EVEN SO, TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS WHO WERE LIVING IN ISOLATION DUE TO VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES,

THEIR REAL GIVEN NAME AND FAMILY NAME

ARE SOMETHING LIKE A BOND THEY DON'T WANT TO LET GO

HEY GARASHI SAN?
AND YET, THE DORMITORY IS SO CRAMPED ---
THE MANSION IS SO HUGE,
I MEAN,
THIS DORMITORY HAS NARROW ROOMS
THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR EVERYBODY TO CALL EACH OTHER BY NICKNAMES BASED ON THEIR ORIGINAL NAMES, IN PRIVATE SITUATIONS
WHY IS YASU THE ONLY ONE WHO'S NOT IN A 3-PERSON ROOM?
BY YASU
SHE CERTAINLY MEANS ME

I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM EXACTLY, BUT
I WAS GIVEN THE SURNAME YASUDA JUST IN CASE
GENJI SAMA WAS THE ONE WHO DECIDED THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE ROOMS.
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
I ALSO DON'T LIKE THAT
SO TRUE!
WOULDN'T IT NORMALLY BE 2 AND 2!?
I MEAN, WHO ON EARTH IS YASU?
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT ONE'S JOB IS TO ATTEND SCHOOL WITH OJOU-SAMA
A SCHOOL FRIEND THING?
I HAVE NO IDEA
... NATURALLY,
ON DAYS WHEN I HAVE WORK TO DO,
I HEAD TO THE MANSION AS SOON AS SCHOOL IS OVER
AND JOIN EVERYBODY TO WORK

SINCE I CAN'T DO JOBS ON MY OWN,
I ONLY HELP OUT, THOUGH ...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I AM TOO YOUNG,
BUT THE ADULT SERVANTS ARE VERY KIND TO ME
THAT KUMASAWA SAN
SHE CLEARLY GOES EASY ONLY ON YASU, RIGHT?
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT, SHE MUST BE MISTAKING THAT ONE FOR HER GRANDCHILD, OR SOMETHING, THAT'S FOR SURE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT KID'S BEING GIVEN THE SAME SALARY AS US.
I DON'T GET IT!
...I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE SCHOOL TO ATTEND,
BUT REMEMBER YOU'RE ALSO A SERVANT, YOU HEAR?
YOU CAN'T BE A HELPER FOREVER,
SO HURRY AND LEARN TO DO WORK BY YOURSELF LIKE THE REST OF US

I'M TRYING TO GIVE MY BEST HERE
I CAN'T USE A DUSTPAN WELL TO REMOVE GARBAGE
I CAN'T FOLD CLOTHES NEATLY
THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I CAN'T CARRY
BUT I STILL LACK STRENGHT TO BE ABLE TO CARRY HEAVY THINGS.
. . . .
キュッ!
WE ARE NOT
GOING TO GO EASY ON YOU FOREVER

I AM COMPLETELY UNABLE
TO DO THINGS WELL LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE

MY ONLY ALLY
SHANNON IS
SHANNON IS SPLENDID
SHE SHOWS ME HOW THINGS ARE DONE,
UNLIKE ME,
SHANNON CAN DO JOBS REALLY WELL
I'D LIKE
TO BECOME LIKE SHANNON, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
BUT SHE NEVER TAKES MY TASKS FROM ME
BUT SHE NEVER PAMPERS ME

I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE HER
SHE DOESN'T SPEAK ILL OF ANYBODY,
AND NOBODY SPEAKS ILL OF HER
SHE GETS ALONG WELL WITH EVERYONE
SHE'S KIND
AND SHE IS ALSO

ALWAYS KINDLY WATCHING OVER MY EFFORTS
TO TRY TO BECOME LIKE HER
WHY DID I HAVE ...TO COME TO THIS PLACE?
I DON'T KNOW

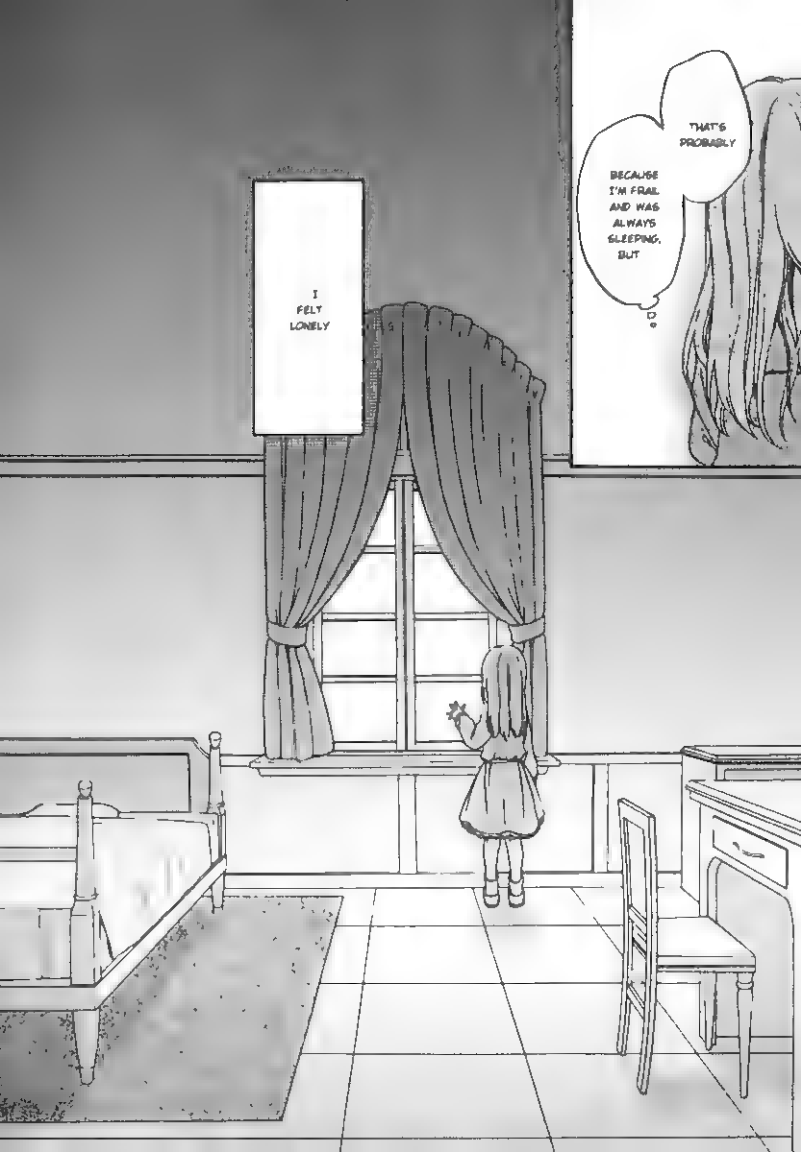
YOU MEAN THIS IS ALSO A TEST FROM GOD ..?
YEAH
I THINK IT'S A TEST TO GROW YOU INTO A SPLENDID PERSON
ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT IT'S PART OF GOD'S PLAN
AFTER ALL, YOU WERE CHOSEN
YOU'RE A SPECIAL PERSON

...I WONDER
IF I AM SPECIAL...
YES, YOU ARE SPECIAL.
BECAUSE,
EVEN THOUGH EVERYBODY ELSE IS ALREADY GROWN UP,
YOU WERE THE ONLY YOUNG CHILD SPECIALLY CHOSEN.
WHY AM I THE ONLY YOUNG CHILD?
I CAN'T EVEN
DO MY JOB CORRECTLY
.....
EVERYBODY SAYS HOW UNFAIR IT IS
THAT I WAS HIRED ONLY TO BE A PLAYMATE FOR OJOU-SAMA
BUT MADAM CALLED MY ATTENTION
AS IF I WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF HERS.
TO NEVER TALK TO OJOU-SAMA IN A TOO FRIENDLY MANNER.
- YOU ARE 10 YEARS YOUNGER THAN EVERYBODY

WHICH MEANS THAT
IF YOU GIVE YOUR BEST HERE UNTIL YOU BECOME THE SAME AGE AS THEM,
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO YOUR WORK MUCH BETTER THAN THE NEW PEOPLE WHO WILL COME IN THE FUTURE.
YOU WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY GENJI-SAMA
AND BE ASSIGNED THE ROLE OF LEADER THAT WILL TEACH THE JOB
TO THE ONES COMING FROM THE FUKUIN HOUSE.
AND THEN,
I'M SURE EVERYBODY WILL RESPECT YOU.
AT THAT MOMENT, THE MADAM,
THAT WILL BE
YOUR FUTURE
MASTER KINZO AND MASTER KRAUSS WILL START TO RECOGNIZE YOU.

AND IN THE FUTURE I'LL BE ABLE TO BECOME A SWAN.
LIKE THE UGLY DUCKLING?
MAYBE YOU WILL
PERHAPS,
IS REALLY MYSTERIOUS
AFTER ALL, THE FACT THAT YOU WERE CHOSEN TO BE A SERVANT OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY
AS THE RUMOURS SAY,
YOU ARE AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF SOMEONE
FROM THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY
GISHI

BUT,
IN THAT CASE,
THAT WOULD BE AMAZING.
YOU'D BE VERY RICH, TOO
WHY WAS I LIVING ALL ALONE IN THE FUKUIN HOUSE
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY OTHER FRIENDS TO PLAY WITH...
THE ONLY ONES WHO WOULD PLAY WITH ME
WERE THE KINDERGARTEN DIRECTORS AND SHANNON
I WAS ALWAYS
SPENDING TIME IN MY ISOLATED ROOM ON MY OWN


I FELT LONELY
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M FRAIL AND WAS ALWAYS SLEEPING. BUT

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Translation: TheAceFrehley

Cleaning: JJ

Typesetting: Chris

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HEY, GENJI!
HOW MUCH DID YOU KNOW?
YOU ARE SILENT AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT
WERE YOU ALWAYS IN THE KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING, FROM THE START !?

Chapter 20: Birth of the Culprit

19 YEARS AGO,
A SERVANT WITH A BABY IN HER ARMS FELL
AND YOU RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FROM NATSUHI
AND THEN,
YOU WENT TO THE CLIFF AND REALIZED THE BABY WAS STILL ALIVE, DIDN'T YOU?
I WAS UNABLE TO JUDGE WHETHER THE BABY WAS ALIVE OR DEAD
WHO JUDGED THAT?
OF COURSE IT WAS THE DOCTOR!
HOW ABOUT THAT, DOCTOR NANJO!!

IF I TELL THEM ?
IS IT ALRIGHT?
...
IF YOU ALLOW ME TO ASK THAT OF YOU,
PLEASE DO SO
...I UNDERSTAND
AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT,
I WAS CONTACTED BY GENJI-SAN RIGHT AWAY,
AND I WAS ASKED TO PERFORM THE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS IN SECRECY

IN SECRECY ?
WHY?
KUWADORIAN'S BEATRICE AND THE BABY, WHO WAS HER CHILD,
WERE PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO EXIST,
WHO WERE NOT ENTERED IN THE FAMILY REGISTER
IF IT WENT PUBLIC, LOTS OF BAD THINGS WOULD PROBABLY HAPPEN.
I HAD STARTED THE PROCEDURES TO HAVE THE BABY REGISTERED.
BUT, AT THE TIME,
THEY WERE NOT READY YET
IT WAS A REALLY COMPLI-CATED TIME
FOR THE CHILD TO DIE
THEN, THE SERVANT WHO FELL WAS TREATED AS THE ONLY ONE INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT?
チン
NATSUMI WOULD KEEP SILENT AND WOULDN'T SPEAK ABOUT IT
A SIMPLE MANEUVERING!

CORRECT
BUT
THAT BABY WAS ALIVE, RIGHT?
. NATURALLY, THE CHILD WAS GRAVELY INJURED . .
IT WAS A MIRACLE
THE BABY MANAGED TO SURVIVE A WOUND LIKE THAT
IF THE ANGLE OF THE FALL HAD BEEN A BIT DIFFERENT,
OR IF
GENJI-SAN HAD BEEN A BIT SLOWER TO BRING THE BABY
. ALL KINDS OF MIRACLES GATHERED TOGETHER
AND THAT BABY MANAGED TO SURVIVE

I HAD LOST ALL HOPE
I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO WAY THE BABY COULD BE ALIVE
BUT IT WAS ALIVE!
HOW VIGOROUS IS LIFE!
NO, THIS IS FATE
FATE!
IT WAS AS IF FATE WAS ORDERING THE CHILD TO SURVIVE AND EVENTUALLY DO SOMETHING!?
YES
I THOUGHT THIS WAS SOME SORT OF FATE
THE BLOOD OF THE BEATRICE-SAMA OF KUWADORIAN,
WHOSE LIFE ENDED ON ROKKENJIMA,
MUST HAVE PROVIDED SOMETHING TO THAT CHILD TO MAKE IT SURVIVE. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
HOWEVER...

DIDN'T TELL HIS MASTER, KINZO, THAT THE BABY HAD SURVIVED
GENJI
KINZO BECAME SAD AND LAMENTED.
BUT HIS LAMENT WAS COLOURED MORE BY MADNESS THAN SADNESS
HE SIMPLY SAID THAT THE BABY WAS CAUGHT IN AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT
AND FELL TO ITS DEATH
THIS TIME, I VOWED NOT TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE, AND YET
WHY, WHY!!
OOOH, BEATRICE
WHY DO YOU ESCAPE FROM ME AGAIN!

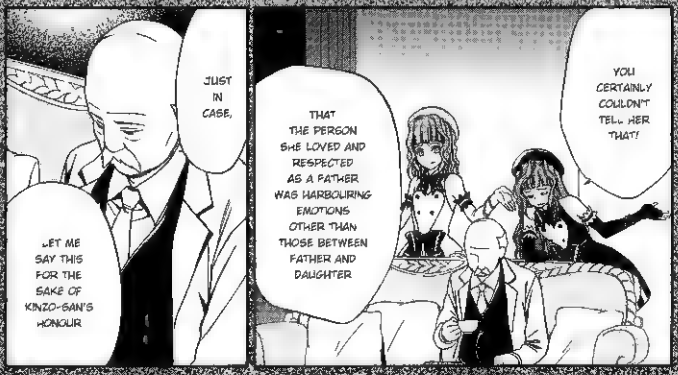
THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING
THAT BENJI DIDN'T TRUST ABOUT THE MASTER HE SO RESPECTED
AND THAT WAS
WHETER HE WOULD REALLY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT
THE GRANDCHILD OF BEATRICE AS JUST A GRANDCHILD
BENJI HAD SERVED THE BEATRICE OF KUWADORIAN FOR A LONG TIME
THEREFORE,
HE KNEW IN DETAIL ABOUT HER FEELINGS
SHE RESPECTED AND LOVED KINZO AS A FATHER
HOWEVER,
KINZO FELT DIFFERENTLY

AS BEATRICE GREW UP,
KINZO ENDED UP SEEING HER AS THE LATE BEATRICE
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE
SHE
FOR THE BEATRICE OF KUWADORIAN TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THOSE FEELINGS
RESPECTED AND LOVED KINZO AS HER ONLY FAMILY,
BUT THIS KINZO AND THAT BEATRICE
SHE THOUGHT HE WAS HER FATHER.
BUT HIS FEELINGS WERE DIFFERENT!
WHAT A TRAGEDY FOR HER!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND KINZO-SAMA'S FEELINGS
IT'S NOT THAT
NOT EVEN KINZO-SAMA
WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY THINKING OF SEEING HER AS THE LATE BEATRICE
FROM THE TIME OF HER BIRTH
WHILE DRINKING WITH HIM, HE SPOKE TO ME ABOUT IT, AS WELL.
I LISTENED THINKING HE WAS JOKING, BUT
WAS HE SURPRISED TO SEE THE DAUGHTER
BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE THE MOTHER AS SHE GREW UP?
THE MORE SHE GREW UP,
THE LESS HE COULD SUPPRESS HIS EMOTIONS?
THE SAME TRAGEDY
WOULD REPEAT ITSELF, WOULDN'T IT?
THAT'S
WHAT I THOUGHT

BEATRICE SAMA HAD SUFFERED
HOWEVER, IN THE END
SHE NEVER CAME TO UNDERSTAND THAT HER FEELINGS AND KINZO-SAMA'S FEELINGS WERE DIFFERENT

I SPOKE WITH BEATRICE SAMA MANY TIMES ABOUT WHAT SHE FELT DEEP INSIDE
HOWEVER, I COULD NOT TELL HER

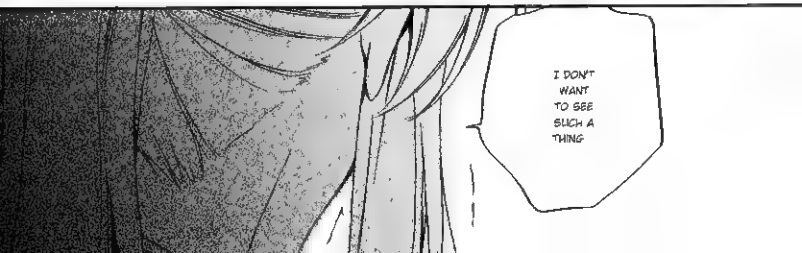

YOU CERTAINLY COULDN'T TELL HER THAT!
THAT THE PERSON SHE LOVED AND RESPECTED AS A FATHER WAS HARBOURING EMOTIONS OTHER THAN THOSE BETWEEN FATHER AND DAUGHTER
JUST IN CASE,
LET ME SAY THIS FOR THE SAKE OF KINZO-SAN'S HONOUR

I THINK KINZO-SAN FOLLOWED HIS LOGIC AND HIS CONSCIENCE
AND TRIED TO RESIST . .
I SUGGESTED HIM TO LOVE HER AS A FATHER
KINZO-SAN WAS SUFFERING, TOO
HE WAS SUFFERING BECAUSE
HE COULDN'T SEE HIS DAUGHTER AS A DAUGHTER, DUE TO HER RESEMBLANCE TO HER MOTHER
KINZO LOVED HER
HOWEVER,
IN THAT CASE, WHY DID HE GIVE THE DAUGHTER THE SAME NAME AS THE MOTHER?
THAT THE LATE BEATRICE HAD LEFT BEHIND
HE DID THAT AS A FATHER.
HE POURED HIS AFFECTION ONTO THE DAUGHTER

KINZO'S SIN STARTED FROM THE TIME SHE RECEIVED LIFE
AAH
AND, AS IF IN AN EXCHANGE, SHE DIED
BEATRICE GAVE BIRTH TO HER
FROM THE VERY MOMENT SHE WAS BORN,
TO THE DAUGHTER
..HE GAVE HER NAME
KINZO HAD DECIDED THAT SHE WAS THE REINCARNATION OF BEATRICE

IN OTHER WORDS, THAT MEANS THAT LION
...WAS WELCOMED INTO THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY IN A ..EGITIMATE WAY
BECAUSE OF KINZO'S REGRET OVER HIS OWN MISTAKES ...AND SINS
CORRECT

I'LL PROBABLY GET MY BUTT PINCHED IF I TALK ABOUT OTHER KAKERAS HERE,
BUT SHALL I TRY TO FIND ONE OF THOSE?
... WHERE EVEN THOUGH LION IS ACCEPTED INTO THE FAMILY,
KINZO CAUSES THE SAME TRAGEDY AGAIN .OR SOMETHING OF THE LIKE *GIGGLE GIGGLE*


I DON'T WANT TO SEE SUCH A THING

IS MIXING THE WORST POSSIBILITIES AND DELUSIONS AT EVERY CORNER OF A PERSON'S LIFE.
AND THEN SNEERING AT THEIR FATE, YOUR JOB!?
UNFORTUNATELY,
THIS PERSON IS THAT KIND OF DEMON
I'M A WITCH.
HOW RUDE
GENJI FORESAW
THAT WORST CASE OF A POSSIBLE FUTURE
AND DELIBERATELY LIED THAT THE BABY DIED
IN ORDER TO SECURE A BETTER FUTURE
THAT'S RIGHT

KNOWING BEATRICE'S FEELINGS, AND FEELING SYMPATHY FOR HER,
GENJI COULD NOT TRUST SO EASILY IN KINZO
YOU MEAN GENJI, KINZO'S LOYAL MANSERVANT?
MAYBE
GENJI IS A MAN THAT CAN DRAW A LINE BETWEEN HIS PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SIDES
ON THE ONE HAND, HE DEVOTES HIS LOYALTY TO KINZO
BUT HE DIDN'T THINK
THAT THE TRAGEDY CAUSED BY KINZO SHOULD BE EASILY FORGIVEN

SO THAT JON'S EXISTENCE WOULD NOT BE EASILY KNOWN.
GENJI LIED ABOUT THE AGE, LOWERING IT BY 3 YEARS
CERTAINLY
THE ME OF THIS WORLD IS ENTERING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN 1976
IN THIS YEAR,
I AM ALREADY IN THE 4TH YEAR
YEAH
WAS IT FRAIL HEALTH THAT DIDN'T ALLOW ATTENDING SCHOOL FOR 3 YEARS?
OR
HE LOWERED THE AGE BY 3 YEARS
BECAUSE HE FEARED THAT NATSUHI WOULD SUSPECT ?
NOT ONLY KINZO, BUT NATSUHI, TOO,
WOULDN'T EASILY FORGET
THE BABY FROM 19 YEARS AGO

IF A SUSPICIOUS YOUNG SERVANT BORN IN THAT YEAR JOINED THEM,
NATSUKI'S WOMAN'S INTUITION WOULD HAVE REALIZED IT
SO, BENJI PROBABLY TRIED TO CAREFULLY DISGUISE THE YEAR OF BIRTH.
.. CORRECT
THE AGE OF THE ..ION OF THIS WORLD
HAS BEEN ALTERED
BY THREE YEARS
A FEEBLE, SMAL..
..NDERDEVELOPED KID

GENJI
THOUGHT HE HAD TO MAKE SURE
SURPRISINGLY,
IT LOOKS LIKE HE MANAGED TO FAKE IT WELL
EVEN WITHOUT KNOWING EACH OTHER, KINZO WOULD PROBABLY SEE TRACES OF HIS DAUGHTER AND HER LATE MOTHER IN THIS CHILD.
IF HE TRULY HAS PARENTAL AFFECTION,
WHETHER KINZO WOULD REALLY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT BEATRICE'S CHILD AS A CHILD
OR NOT
THEY WOULD CERTAINLY BE ABLE TO TAKE BACK THEIR BONDS AS PARENT AND CHILD
AND THEN, EVEN WITHOUT BEING TOLD THE TRUTH BY ANYONE,

OR PERHAPS,
WHEN THE TIME NATURALLY COMES,
HE SHOULD TELL THE TRUTH TO FATHER AND CHILD
AND WHILE HE WAITS FOR THE FATEFUL DAY,
HE WATCHES OVER BEATRICE'S CHILD.
GENJI DOESN'T LET THEM KNOW ANYTHING,
DOESN'T TELL THEM

CHAPTER TWO ✦ FIRST FRIEND

!
WEREN'T YOU USING IT TO CLEAN THE WINDOW FRAMES?
AH...
PAY ATTENTION.
IT WAS LEFT WITH YOU, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU STUPID!
C'MON,
HURRY AND GO SEARCH FOR IT
HURRY, HURRY, BEFORE MADAM FINDS OUT
WHAT'S WRONG ?
YASU LOST THE SMALL BROOM SOMEWHERE AGAIN.
IS THIS KID A GENIUS AT LOSING STUFF!?
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO LET YASU HOLD THINGS
THIS ONE IS SO CARELESS, ALWAYS LOSING STUFF
THIS KID IS WORKING HARD, SO DON'T SAY THAT ..!

COME ON,
HURRY AND GO LOOK FOR IT
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU
Y YEAH
IF YOU LOSE TOOLS,
YOU GET SCOLDED
IF NO ONE KNOWS WHO IS TO BLAME, EVERYBODY GET'S SCOLDED BY COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY
SO, THEY WILL PROBABLY TELL MADAM I LOST IT
17話
BUT IT WAS NOT ALONE I LOST IT SO IT'S
WHEN DID I LOSE IT?

HOWEVER, THIS PLACE SEEMS TO BE A SACRED BUILDING TO THE MASTER,
SO, WE ARE ORDERED TO DO A BIG CLEANING A FEW TIMES A YEAR
THE CHAPEL IS A BIG BUILDING AT THE BACK OF THE MANSION.
USUALLY, NOBODY GOES NEAR THERE
TODAY
WAS THE BIG CLEANING OF THE CHAPEL.
I WAS IN CHARGE OF CLEANING THE WINDOW FRAMES, BUT
THE SMALL BROOM
WHILE I WAS BUSY WITH OTHER SMALL JOBS,
I PROBABLY FORGOT IT AND LEFT IT SOMEWHERE
TODAY, IT TOOK US THE WHOLE DAY TO CLEAN EVERYTHING
WE CLEAN EVERY LITTLE SPACE, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM,
FROM DEEP INSIDE TO THE CORNERS

I HATE THIS
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS
WHY IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
IT ALWAYS ENDS UP DISAPPEARING ?
WHY IS IT THAT WHENEVER I LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND
AH
ガヤ
ガヤ

...I'D BE BAD TO MAKE EVERYONE WAIT BECAUSE OF ME.
IF I ASKED THEM TO WAIT FOR ME,
SO, IT'S A GOOD THING,
I'D BE BEHAVING LIKE A.
THAT THEY ARE GOING BACK AHEAD, INSTEAD

WHAT?
Did I
OOP?!

I DON'T WANT TO STAY IN THIS PLACE ALONE FOREVER!
I HAVE TO HURRY AND FIND THE SMALL BROOM
NO, ONLY FINDING IT IS NOT ENOUGH
I HAVE TO CLEAN THE WINDOW FRAMES THAT WERE NOT CLEANED YET
BECAUSE I DON'T THINK I HAD THE SMALL BROOM ANYMORE WHEN I CLEANED THE LAST WINDOW
MADAM IS VERY SEVERE
SHE WILL CAREFULLY CHECK ALL THE WINDOWS LATER.
AND THEN,
THE ONE WHO WILL BE SCOLDED TOMORROW WILL BE ME . .

AND HOW DID I LOSE IT?
REALLY, WHERE
THIS IS
THE WITCH BEATRICE'S DOING ...!
I KNOW
...I SEE

EVEN NOW, THE MASTER'S LOVER, BEATRICE, WANDERS AROUND, SEARCHING FOR A BODY
THE WITCH BEATRICE.
THAT GHOST WAS REBORN THROUGH THE POWER OF THE EVIL SPIRITS
KUMAGAWA SAN TOLD ME
A STORY ABOUT EVIL SPIRITS THAT WERE SEALED IN THE SHRINE ON THE COAST OF ROKKENJIMA
WITH THE POWER OF THE EVIL SPIRITS, DAY BY DAY, SHE INCREASES HER POWER!
AND WAITS FOR THE TIME OF HER REVIVAL
AND ALWAYS HIDING THINGS SOMEWHERE WHEN I'M CASUALLY NOT LOOKING!
SHE IS WATCHING
AND THEN, FOR SOME REASON,

IS IT SOMEONE'S PRANK?
NO
THAT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN PLACES WHERE THERE'S NO ONE BUT ME
THEY DISAPPEAR AS SOON AS I LOOK AWAY
OR JUST PUT THEM IN THEIR PROPER PLACE
EVEN THOUGH I THINK OF USING THEM LATER ON,
KEYS,
HANDKERCHIEF
PENCIL,
ERASER
BUT THINGS SIMPLY DISAPPEAR, LIKE A BAD TASTE JOKE
I TRY TO BE CAUTIOUS,
TELLING ME I'M FORGETFUL, OR JUST TOO CARELESS
EVERYONE MOCKS AND SCOLDS ME,
AND YET
FIXEDLY AND CLOSELY, AT SOMETHING, NOTHING DISAPPEARS
ONLY WHEN I STARE,
SOMETHING ELSE DISAPPEARS
WHEN I THINK EVERYTHING IS FINE, AND RELAX JUST A LITTLE BIT,

WHY...
WHY ONLY ME...
HUHU HUHU HUH HAA HAA HA...

AAAHAHA
HAHAAHA
HAAAAHA
HAHAHA
AHAHAAA
AHAHAHA
HAAHAHA
A VOICELESS LAUGHTER ...!!
I CAN HEAR
GIGGLE GIGGLE
HAA HAHA HAHA HA HAA HA
...I CAN HEAR...
HAHA...HAHA...
I KNOW THE WITCH IS LAUGHING AT ME,
CLUMSILY SEARCHING AROUND THE SAME PLACES,
OVER AND OVER, ALL THE TIME ...

KUUKUUKU...

HYAAAAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH

IT'S BECAUSE IT'S VERY FUNNY TO SEE YOU TROUBLED AND FLUSTERED LIKE THAT

...WHAT REASON WOULD IT BE. OTHER THAN THAT?

YOU FOOL. THAT'S OBVIOUS

PLEASE, STOP THIS ALREADY ...!

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HIDE MY THINGS TO CAUSE ME TROUBLE!?

• BAM •

• BAM •

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